

ILLUSTRATED TALES TO BEWITCH & BEDEVIL YOU



VAMPI  
#23

APRIL 1973

# VAMPIRELLA

A WARREN MAGAZINE POC 75¢ 588856

DEEP  
IN THE  
HEART  
OF THE  
JUNGLE  
AWAITS  
THE  
DEADLY  
COBRA  
QUEEN!



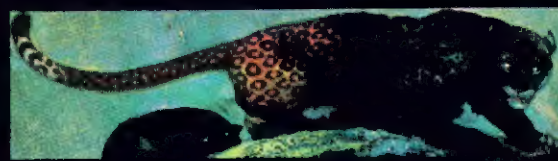
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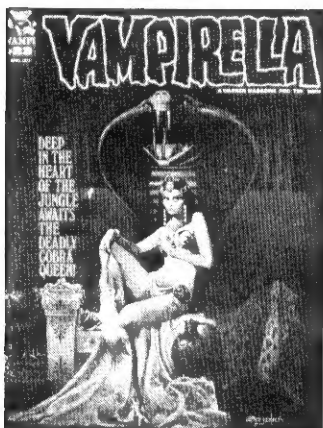
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# VAMPIRELLA

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**APRIL 1973**

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**CONCERNING OUR MAIL ORDER ADVERTISEMENTS:** Warren Publishing Co. guarantees the delivery and satisfaction of all items advertised in this issue. Should you need to write us concerning an order, whether it be from our address or a Post Office Box address, send your letter to: E.C. Ives, Customer Service Dept., Warren Publishing Co., 145 E. 32nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10016.



## "Only thing wrong with VAMPIRELLA: Science Fiction!"

**A**bout VAMPIRELLA #21: Marvelous, simply marvelous. Enrich's cover painting was beautiful, though not as beautiful as his cover for Vampi #18. "Mind Benders" was great!

How come when Vampires change form their clothing changes also? It makes everything quite unreal.

By the way, how do you pronounce your name? I have two friends and we all say it differently.

**ROE KAMP**  
St. Petersburg, Fla.

**My name is pronounced "VAMPA-RELLA."**

How do you guys do it? Issue #21 was another success. That cover! There are NO words great enough to express my feelings about that cover. Every cover by Enrich has been super-terrific. My sister thought the covers of #18 and #21 were photographs.

"Slitherers Of The Sand" was by far the best story. All the other stories were about the same degree of greatness. The "Short-Shocker" was pretty neat, too.

**DONNY SCONTRAS**  
Orono, Maine

I'd like to point out that your true Women's Lib stories are not those which play so effectively on men's fears, but those dealing with Vampi! The tables are turned and it is Adam who is continually rescued by her, goes mad in the heat, tries to be heroic, and blows it, and is generally a useless piece of baggage like women used to be in adventure fiction! I am waiting for Vampi to get into a fight indoors so Adam can pick up a vase and break it over the wrong person's head. It is as much a drag when a man has to play that role. Adam was just fine when Archie Goodwin was handling him, but although Steve Englehart is a great improvement over T. Casey Brennan, it doesn't look like he's going to do any better by Adam.

For the rest, I'm with Linda Maxwell in congratulating you on admitting the sexuality of Vampirism. This aspect of it has long been acknowledged by movies, and except for the rare case of Lugosi bending over Dwight Frye, I can't remember a male vampire moving in to bite a man except to kill. It is noteworthy that in *Dracula AD 1972* (which is a lot better than it sounds), although Lee is willing to try to bite Cushing to kill him, when he has to bite the boy who is his assistant in order to give him the powers of vampirism, Lee is noticeably reluctant, and the camera blacks out on the scene.

**MS. LLOYD ROSE**  
Chapel Hill, N.C.

I have been reading your magazine ever since issue #1. I enjoy the VAMPIRELLA stories and their concept of the fact that everyone can be on the side of good if they want to be. I like the way you hold up under pressure, Vampi; you seem to want to be good but you have to fight your nature to do this. Vampi, cheer up. You are not alone in your fight—the people of the Earth are the same way. You are mystified by a world you don't understand but I think you have just missed seeing the sameness of the two worlds. Many people have their affliction to conquer. The fight for survival is a long hard one and the differences of the causes are better understood than you think. You have shown us one side of Earth vampires, but there is another side, too—those that are Vampires not because of themselves, but those who fell victim and thus become what they would not want to be, and they, too, have to conquer their curse.

**DEBRA HATFIELD**  
Ft. Smith, Ark.

I think VAMPIRELLA #21 was good. "The Vampiress Stalks" was really good. "Paranoia" was fair. "Slitherers Of The Sand" was the best. A word of warning, Vampi. Some of your latest issues are not as good as they used to be. You better improve your features or EERIE and CREEPY will run you out of the business. Hang in there, Vampi.

**JOHN PATROS**  
Wappingers Falls, N.Y.

VAMPIRELLA #21 was just fantastic. The cover was beautiful, even with signs of Death, yet, you still looked gorgeous, Vampi.

**BOB HASTY**  
Portsmouth, Va.

I just finished reading issue #21 which happens to be the first one I bought. I'm happy to say that all your stories were beautifully done. The artwork was absolutely fabulous. I especially liked "The Vampiress Stalks The Castle This Night," and also "Tomb Of The Gods." I hope you keep up the good work, 'cause I plan to keep buying more of your issues.

**IRIS CRUZ**  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

**Hey, men—where are your letters? Most of the letters seem to be from the girls. What's happening? Let's put the Male back in the mail column.**

To put it simply, VAMPIRELLA #21 was stupendous! Even the page numbers shone with a certain radiance. Gonzalez couldn't have captured your bustidious beauty more perfectly.

"Vampiress Stalks the Castle" was a suspenseful mystery as well as a true work of art.

**KELLY KEARSE**  
Charleston, S.C.

I must say that "Slitherers In The Sand" was the best story in VAMPIRELLA #21. Gonzalez's artwork was good as usual, and I hope Gonzalez will stay with VAMPIRELLA as the number one artist for years to come.

Also, "The Vampiress Stalks The Castle This Night" had good artwork, but the story didn't make much sense.

I am disappointed that you did not have Auraleon illustrate a story in this issue, and I am suggesting that you have him do more artwork in the future.

**SANDRA DOWDRIE**  
Winston, Salem, N.C.

I have been reading the VAMPIRELLA episodes ever since issue number one, but haven't written until now. As far as the series goes, I MISS ARCHIE! Chad Archer is pretty good, but **nobody** can equal Archie Goodwin's eloquent writing style.

Don't think me a tactless boor, but I don't like the "Tomb of the Gods" series. Maroto is a great artist, but as a writer, he has a ways to go.

"Paranoia" was truly great, with both Steve Skeates and Luis Garcia coming on with their usual polish. I enjoyed "Puppy Love," your Short-Shocker. Felix Mas' art in "The Vampiress Stalks" was fantasmagorical.

**JOHN VOLAND**  
Van Nuys, Calif.

All I've got to say about VAMPIRELLA is: the only thing wrong with your magazine is SCIENCE FICTION! The only thing right: Garcia, Bea, Dube, Dominguez, Maroto and Sutton!

**KATHLEEN LaCLAIRE**  
Miami, Fla.

Just wanted to congratulate you on #21. My favorite story was "Slitherers Of The Sand." I especially liked the artwork on Page 6. Never lose Gonzalez.

**ERIH MIAZGA**  
Toronto, Canada



Cover artist Enrich's photographic rendition of VAMPIRELLA in a scene from "The Slitherers of the Sand," drew much reader comment. Most was complimentary of the art!



## "Only thing right: Maroto, Bea!"

Touche, dear girl, touche. With each issue, **VAMPIRELLA** becomes increasingly better. Obviously the head hauncher at Warren Publishing has finally realized that their countless readers deserve something better than the pitiful material they were getting. And, by golly, they've done something about it. Somebody has really put the Warren Magazines on their feet. They've gotten off the ground, and that is exactly what the magazines have needed for a long time. And who is leading this march for excellence? None other than the sexiest thing that has hit the comic world since Wonder Woman—it can be none other than the Draculonian sensation, **VAMPIRELLA**.

Vampi, you are indeed magnificent.

A typical example of your splendor is quite evident in issue #21. This issue happens to be the first of my new 14 issue subscription.

One thing that has always set the Warren Magazines apart from other horror magazines is their exceptionally fine cover art. No. 21 is, of course, no exception. The cover was great. But, as we all know, nothing else can be expected from Enrich. He has repeatedly proved this with issues #17 & 18.

Everything has shown improvement in the magazine, including the letter's column. Besides visibly looking visually exciting I'm glad to see you no longer print sole complimentary letters. Criticizing letters and even some making outright derogatory statements are now seen. I am also pleased to see letters that offer polite constructive criticism with real insight and thought.

As for the stories, most were of a very high standard.

"Slitherers Of The Sand" was good, but somehow seemed to lack imagination. The involvement of plot that your old story writer, Archie Goodwin, put in has not been rivaled yet. In my opinion, Archie Goodwin is to **Vampirella** as Robert Howard is to Conan. Archie gave you life with all its joys and sorrows. Indeed, under his pen, you were real, a flesh and blood person. Then you were submitted to the imaginations of T. Casey Brennan, who, at the time, seemed to be a sufficient replacement. In fact, with the first issues when he took over the reigns, Mr. Brennan made a terrific showing of himself as he did in his past tales. But slowly, gradually, his plots become boring, mediocre and you dropped into the "make-be-

lieve" ranks of a typical comic character.

Now you've turned over to Steve Englehart. Perhaps he can place you back up on the pedestal you so richly deserve.

But even with your withering plots, the dramatic art of Jose Gonzalez pulls each issue through. Though Goodwin gave you literary life, Gonzalez has given you artistic life. Gonzalez rescued you from the rut made by Tom Sutton. But with the talents of Gonzalez behind you, Vampi, you can go nowhere but up.

I think that has been proven with the fabulous poster he did of you. I have one and it was worth every cent I paid for it. I also have a six-foot **Frankenstein** poster by Jack Davis. Both hang side by side on my closet doors. I affectionately call them "Beauty and the Beast."

About your other stories. The few people who criticize Esteban Maroto's solo work are the ones who can't see the allegories that each tale holds. I believe every story Maroto has written that has appeared in the Warren Magazines is symbolic of a point or ideal Maroto is attempting to get across to the readers.

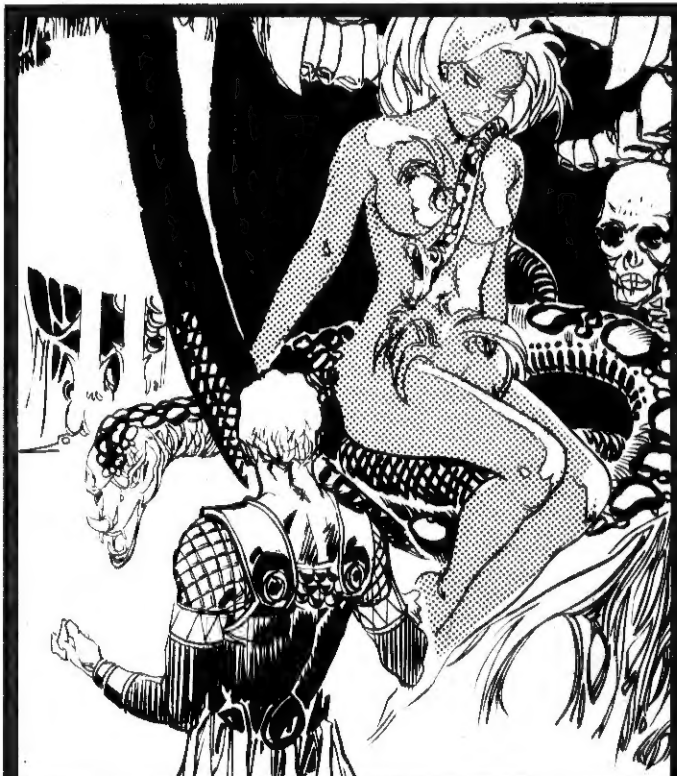
"Paranoia" by Steve Skeates is typical of the Skeates syndrome. Acceptable, but not at all outstanding. "The Vampire Stalks the Castle At Night." When I first saw it, I thought it was going to be a standard Vampire story. However I was wrong. Mr. McGregor can write a good Vampire tale and make it truly different. All in all, Vampi, your stories are on the up and up. And I'm sure you'll keep them that way.

**M. GREGORY BRYANT**  
Seminole, Fla.

I received my six foot poster of you today, and it is really beautiful. You look so great you even made my girlfriend jealous. Not even Playboy has posters this good, **VAMPIRELLA**.

Issue #21 was a distinct improvement over issues in which Brennan was the **VAMPIRELLA** strip scriptor, and what a fantastic 23 page adventure you had. Steve Englehart is portraying your emotions better than any other author, and nobody could illustrate you better than Gonzalez. I advise all readers to complete their **VAMPIRELLA** collections as quickly as possible, because they are all collector's editions bound to increase in price.

**WESLEY SCOTT**  
Belle Plaine, Kansas



There were muscular heroes and voluptuous women galore in Esteban Maroto's controversial "Tomb of the Gods" series. Many readers claimed they loved the art, but the writing wasn't up to par. The series has been dropped in favor of more Maroto artwork on traditional horror stories!

This is the first one of your magazines I've read, and it won't be the last. Issue #21 was great! I've seen your poster, and the drawing in "Slitherers of the Sand," and it proves to me that Jose Gonzalez is a master.

The story itself bugs me however. I mean, a giant slug? And a talking one at that. Dracula really comes on strong in the end, the way he should have been all through the story: fighting to drink the blood of Pendragon and the Van Helsing! We want **MORE** Dracula!

**JOEL BAILEY**  
Brooklyn, N.Y.



More Dracula coming up, Joel! With the current issue of **EERIE**, on sale now, **DRACULA** begins a series all his own! And **VAMPIRELLA** herself makes a quickie appearance.

I would like to see more werewolves and vampires in your magazine. Why haven't you ever created a story about King Kong or Godzilla?

**DAVID INGLE**  
Morris, Minn.

I must say that **VAMPIRELLA** is the best magazine on the market today. And the artistry is the best I've ever seen anywhere! Jose Gonzalez can draw anything. But I would like to see him draw a werewolf story, starring **VAMPIRELLA**!

**BOBBY HANON**  
Upland, Calif.



Jose Gonzalez already has drawn a werewolf **VAMPIRELLA** strip, Bobby! Way back in issue #14, **VAMPIRELLA** battled a she-wolf on "The Isle of the Huntress!"

## VAMPI'S BITING HER NAILS!

Think you've got problems, bunk? **VAMPIRELLA** is biting her nails because she thinks nobody loves her! She only received 722 letters this morning. Why not write a letter to everybody's favorite neck-biter today!

**SCARLET LETTERS**  
c/o Warren Publishing Co.  
145 E. 32nd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10016





**WINTERTIME IN MAINE!** TO MANY WHO TREAD THE CONCRETE / CLAY OF EAST COAST **METROPOLISES**, IT IS A THREE-DAY INUNDATION IN **FANTASY**, A BADLY-NEEDED **BREATH** FROM THE DREARY REALITY OF GRAY 9-TO-5 DAYS. TO **OTHERS**-- THE SKI BUMS, THE STUDENTS, THE RICH--IT IS ONLY A **STOP** ON A FIVE--MONTH TOUR OF **SNOW**. AND TO **RESIDENTS**, IT IS A REQUISITE **HARDSHIP** NAILED INTO THE WRITTEN CONTRACT OF BEING AN **EASTERNER**.

BUT TO **ONE**, IT IS **UNIQUE**-- BECAUSE ON HER ALIEN **BIRTH-PLANET**, THERE IS **NO WATER** TO FREEZE INTO HEXAGONAL CRYSTALS--AND **HER** NAME IS...

# VAMPIRELLA







YOU SHOULD **JOIN ME**, ADAM-- THE **SNOW** CAN REMOVE THOSE SOUR **LINES** FROM YOUR FACE.

I'D **LOVE** TO, **VAMPIRELLA**, BELIEVE ME-- BUT THERE'S NO **TIME** FOR PLAY ANY LONGER--NOT FOR **US**.

MY FATHER AND I HAVE JUST **DECIPHERED** SOME NOTES AND **DIARIES** WE FOUND IN FATHER JONA'S CHURCH--\*

--AND IF WE **UNDERSTAND** THEM CORRECTLY, THE **DARKLING DISCIPLES**, THE **CULT** HE BELONGED TO, HAS A **SECOND BASE**--

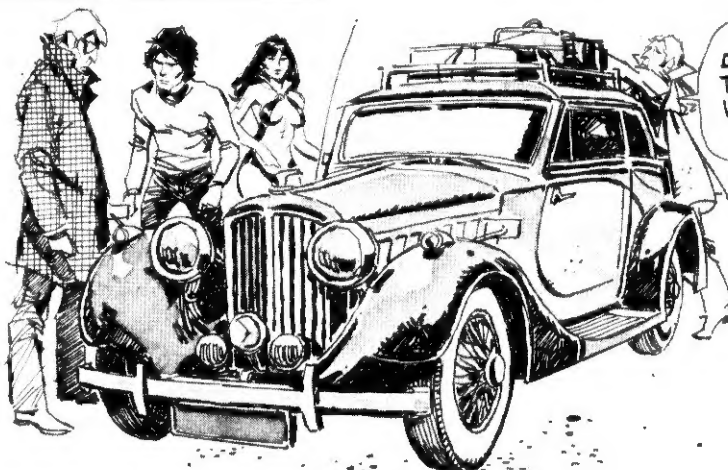
--SOMEWHERE NEAR **NEW ORLEANS**. WE WANT TO GO THERE **IMMEDIATELY**.

\* SEE **VAMPIRELLA** #22 "HELL FROM ON HIGH!"



I SWORE **VENGEANCE** ON THEM WHEN THEY KILLED MY BROTHER, AND EVEN IF WE WERE **NOT** THE ONLY ONES WHO POSSESSED THE KNOWLEDGE AND WEAPONS--

--I WOULD NEVER **STOP** UNTIL I HAD CONFRONTED EVERY **VESTAGE** OF THEIR **EVIL**!



**CERTAINLY**, DOCTOR-- BUT MUST THE KNOWLEDGE AND WEAPONS BE SO **BULKY**?



LET ME GIVE YOU A **HAND**, PENDRAGON.

THANK YOU, ADAM. THESE POOR ARMS ARE **BEST** SERVED BENDING IN **CONVIVIAL** PURSUITS--

--WHICH CHANCES TO **REMINDE** ME... I TRUST WE PACKED A LIBERAL AMOUNT OF AFTER-WORK **REFRESHMENT**?

AHHH, **DELICIOUS**: A TASTE THAT WOULD WARM THE COCKLES OF **ANY** HEART.

... QUITE **DELECTABLE** ON A DETESTABLY COLD NIGHT LIKE **THIS**!





**BAYOU PARISH** ISN'T LISTED ON YOUR GASOLINE STATION ROAD MAP. IT HAS NO POST OFFICE... NO TOWN CENTER... NO GASOLINE STATION. IT'S MERELY A PATCH OF SCRUBBY LAND AND SUCKING SWAMP, SOMEWHERE TO THE SOUTHWEST OF NEW ORLEANS, BY CAJUNS... AND OTHERS WHO DON'T LIKE CIVILIZATION. IT DOES ITS BEST TO HIDE FROM THE WORLD. WOULD THAT IT COULD HAVE SUCCEEDED....



GARY-- DON'T SAY THAT! I--I LOVE YOU! I NEED YOU!

SURE, 'CAUSE I'M THE BEST YOU'LL EVER GET, YOU PIG. BUT I'VE GOTTEN YOU NOW, SO IT'S TIME TO CHECK OUT SOMEBODY NEW, DIG?



DON'T FEEL TOO BAD, BABY-- IF CARLA'S STILL GOIN' WITH JIM, I MIGHT DROP BY SOME NIGHT.

GARY... I'LL DIE WITHOUT YOU! YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME!



FOR BAYOU PARISH'S YOUNG PEOPLE FIGHT THE OLD WAYS, OF COURSE--AND THIS NIGHT, IT IS TO THEIR COST!

GEE, GARY, WHY'D WE HAVE TO LEAVE THE PARTY SO EARLY? IT WAS GETTIN' REAL GOOD.



AH, SHOVE IT, SALLY SUE! I'M SICK O' YOUR WHININ'--AND I'M SICK O' YOU!

WE'RE CALLIN' IT QUILTS.

AND QUIT CRYIN' ON MY SHIRT! MAW PAID TWENTY BUCKS FOR IT!



YOU CAN'T...





I WON'T  
LIVE  
WITHOUT---



COME TO ME NOW,  
WOMAN-OF-THE-WATER  
... AND BE ONE  
WITH ME.

THE DARKLING  
DISCIPLES DEMANDS  
YOU TO BE...



# THE BLOOD QUEEN OF BAYOU PARISH!

STORY: STEVE ENGLEHART/ART: JOSE GONZALEZ



AFTER **DEATH** MUST COME THE **FUNERAL**, TO EASE THE PAIN OF THOSE LEFT **BEHIND**. BUT **NOW** CAN THE PAIN OF PARENTS BE SALVED, WHEN THEY KNOW THAT THEIR ONLY **DAUGHTER**... WAS A **SUICIDE**?

ASHES TO ASHES...  
DUST TO DUST...



THE **MORTAL** REMAINS ARE BURIED HERE... BUT THE **SPRIT** SHALL SURELY MEET WITH THAT GREAT GOD WHO LIVES FOREVER....



THE GOD WE ALL...  
SERVE...

THANK YOU, FATHER JONAS. IT WAS A NICE CHRISTIAN SERVICE.



AND WHILE WE CONSIDER THE **TRUTH** OF THOSE WORDS, LET US RETURN TO HER WITH WHOM WE **BEGAN**: **VAMPIRELLA**.

WAS IT, MR. CARTIER? OR DO YOU JUST **THINK** IT WAS?

THERE ARE...  
**MANY GODS...**



**CONRAD!** COME IN... COME IN! I'VE BEEN AWAITING YOU **EAGERLY**, EVER SINCE YOUR **TELEGRAM** CAME.

THE **FLESH** IS WEAK, VICTOR... BUT THE **MIND** IS STILL ACTIVE.

HOW ARE YOU, OLD FRIEND?



AS OPPOSED TO **WHAT**, VICTOR? MY EXISTENCE HAS BEEN A **DANGEROUS** ONE FOR MANY YEARS, AS YOU WELL KNOW.

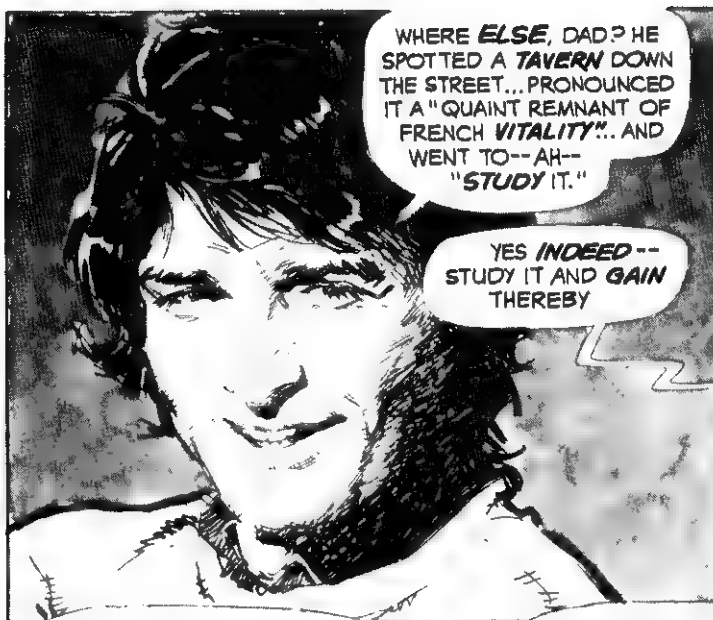
AT ANY RATE, I HAVE **ALLIES**. YOU KNOW MY SON, **ADAM**-- AND THIS IS **VAMPIRELLA**, A MOST **UNUSUAL** YOUNG GIRL.

BUT... WHERE IS **PENDRAGON**, ADAM?

AND AT **OUR** AGE, THAT IS ALL THAT CAN BE **EXPECTED**. STILL, IF YOUR ACTIVITIES ARE THE SAME AS **EVER**...

... COULDN'T THAT LEAD TO **DANGER**?





WHERE *ELSE*, DAD? HE SPOTTED A *TAVERN* DOWN THE STREET... PRONOUNCED IT A "QUAINT REMNANT OF FRENCH *VITALITY*"... AND WENT TO-- AH-- "*STUDY IT.*"

YES *INDEED*-- STUDY IT AND *GAIN* THEREBY



I SHOULD LIKE YOU ALL TO MEET A *LOVELY* YOUNG EXPONENT OF THIS CHARMING CITY'S *GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY*, SALLY SUE CARTIER.

HI.

ADAM, SHE IS THE IMAGE... THE PERFECT *IMAGE*... OF MY VERY OWN *ROSIE*, A YOUTHFUL EXERCISE IN THE MYSTERIES OF *ROMANCE*, LOVED AND LOST BEFORE THE WORLD WAR. I TELL YOU, I... AH, WELL....

SALLY SUE AND I CHANCED UPON EACH OTHER JUST NOW-- AND WE'RE OFF TO THE CITY, TO INSPECT THE ANCIENT *BUILDINGS*, AND PERHAPS TO SAMPLE ONE OR TWO *EXPORTS* OF SUNNY FRENCH *VINEYARDS*.

DON'T BE TOO LONG, PENDRAGON, WE HAVE *WORK* TO DO.

LET HIM GO, VAMPIRELLA. OUR PATH MAY BE *PERILOUS*. --ANY *OASIS* ALONG IT SHOULD BE *NURTURED*.

BUT WE WANTED TO *INFORM* YOU, TO FORESTALL ANY APPREHENSION FROM MY *ABSENCE*.



I *KNEW* THAT OLD FRAUD WAS *LOVABLE*. --NOW I KNOW HE HAS *GOOD TASTE*.

I DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS *ANY* EARTH GIRL THAT LOOKED LIKE *YOU*, VAMPIRELLA.

ME? WELL, IF YOU *THINK* SO, ADAM. OF COURSE, WITH HER BROWN HAIR ---

BROWN? BUT--HER HAIR WAS *BLONDE*!

NO, IT WAS *BLACK*.



SOMETHING IS *WRONG* HERE. WE CAN'T BE *THAT* CONFUSED--UNLESS...

UNLESS WHAT?

UNLESS WE WERE AFFECTED BY A *SPELL*--

--WHICH MEANS WE ARE INVOLVED WITH THE DARKLING DISCIPLES *ALREADY*--

--AND PENDRAGON IS THEIR HELPLESS *PAWN*!



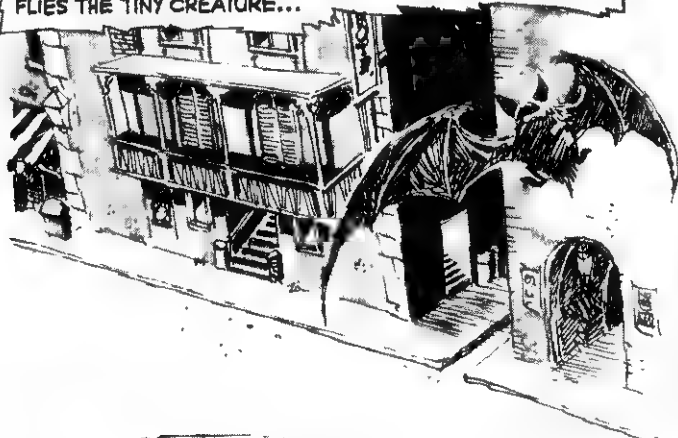


A STREAK OF **SCARLET** FLASHES FROM THE WINDOW LEDGE... BUT THEN THE POWERS OF ONE BORN ON THE PLANET **DRAHULON** MANIFEST THEMSELVES, AND THE **GIRL** TAKES THE FORM OF A NIGHT-FLYING **BAT**.



CRISS-CROSSING THE CONFUSING BYWAYS OF NEW ORLEANS' FAMED **FRENCH QUARTER**-- THEN INTO THE **HEART** OF THE MODERN METROPOLIS-- **SWIFTLY** FLIES THE TINY CREATURE...

...BUT ITS BRIGHT, BEADY **EYES** SIGHT NO **SIGN** OF AN AGING MAGICIAN, AND SO:



THIS IS THE **BAR PENDRAGON** WENT INTO **BEFORE!** MAYBE....

MY FRIEND **PENDRAGON**--  
--A MAN IN A FROCK-COAT  
WAS HERE WITH A **GIRL** AN  
HOUR AGO. CAN ANYONE  
**TELL** ME ANYTHING ABOUT  
HER?

NO, HONEY--  
BUT IF YOU'RE  
LOOKIN' FOR A **MAN**,  
SLAPPER JOE'S THE  
ONE FOR **YOU**.

MUST BE **COLD** IN  
THAT GET-UP, DARLIN'.  
GONNA HAVE TA **WARM**  
**YA UP**-- RIGHT, GUYS?

STAY BACK-- OR  
I WON'T BE RESPONSIBLE  
FOR WHAT MIGHT  
**HAPPEN**.





OKAY BY ME. I'M THE TAKE-CHARGE  
TYPE ANYWAY, BABY --



HEEEYY!

CROOM!



NOW  
ABOUT MY  
FRIEND...

YEAH... I WAS TALKIN'  
WITH HER. SHE SAID SHE'D COME  
IN FROM *BAYOU PARISH*, OUT  
IN THE *SWAMPS*, JUST TO MEET  
THAT OLD CHARACTER.



LIKE TO BEEN  
ABLE TO *DROWN*  
IN HER *AFRO*....



MY DEAR, NEVER SINCE  
FAIR ROSIE AND I WERE  
*PARTED* HAS HER BEAUTY EVER  
BEEN *NEARED*-- YET YOU ARE  
HER *IMAGE*, HER MIRROR  
REFLECTION....

COME TO  
ME, PENDRAGON...  
WE ARE *ALONE*  
NOW.



NO,  
WITCH!

MOVE AWAY FROM HER,  
PENDRAGON--THERE IS *MAGIC*  
AT WORK HERE!

VAMPIRELLA?  
WHAT ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?





QUICKLY--  
WHAT COLOR  
HAIR DOES  
SHE HAVE?

WHY, RED--  
LIKE MY FAIR ROSIE,  
OF COURSE.



PENDRAGON, ADAM SAW  
HER AS HAVING **BLACK** HAIR,  
VICTOR SAW HER AS A **BLONDE**--  
--AND TO ME, SHE'S A  
**BRUNETTE**.

NATURALLY,  
VAMPIRELLA--I  
APPEAR AS  
EVERY MAN'S  
DREAM  
WOMAN--



--AND I HAVE **OTHER**  
POWERS!

**VEX AGUA  
SUPRO!**



I AM THE WOMAN  
OF THE **WATER**-- AND  
I AM **SUPREME!**



UNCONSCIOUSNESS FROM LACK OF AIR IS A **HORRIBLE** THING, FOR IT IN THOSE LAST TWILIGHT MOMENTS BEFORE **AWARENESS** RETURNS, THERE ARE **DREAMS**-- DREAMS THAT YOU'LL NEVER **WAKE**... THAT THE LINE BETWEEN BLACKING OUT AND **DEATH** IS SO **THIN**, ANY SMALL ERROR COULD HAVE LAID YOU OUT **FOREVER**.

BUT EVENTUALLY, **AWARENESS DOES** RETURN, BRINGING **RELIEF**-- UNLESS YOU ARE **VAMPIRELLA**, AND MUST SEE WHAT **SHE SEES**--



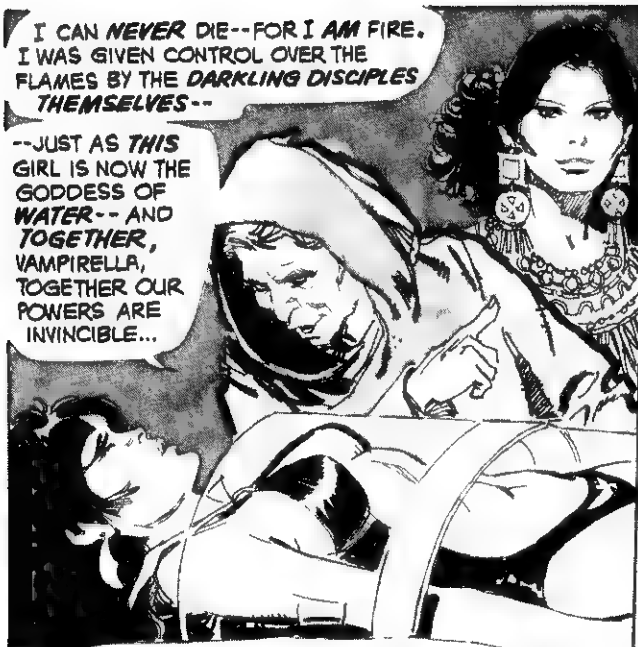
FATHER JONAS!  
WE... THOUGHT YOU  
WERE...

DEAD, VAMPIRELLA?  
HARDLY! FIRE MAY HURT  
ME, BUT IT CANNOT KILL ME,  
ANY MORE THAN **WATER**  
CAN KILL A FISH!

FIRE IS  
MY ELEMENT,  
GIRL!

I CAN NEVER DIE--FOR I AM FIRE. I WAS GIVEN CONTROL OVER THE FLAMES BY THE DARKLING DISCIPLES THEMSELVES--

--JUST AS THIS GIRL IS NOW THE GODDESS OF WATER-- AND TOGETHER, VAMPIRELLA, TOGETHER OUR POWERS ARE INVINCIBLE...



AWAY, YOU MINDLESS CLOD! ONCE YOU FORSOOK ME-- BUT YOU HAVE PAID FOR THAT-- HAVEN'T YOU, GARY?

WE OF THE DISCIPLES MUST HAVE OUR PLEASURES! YOUR TRANSFORMATION INTO MY PERSONAL SLAVE IS MY ONLY ONE. --AND ALL I DESIRE!



SHE IS CORRECT, VAMPIRELLA: THE DARKLING DISCIPLES HAVE MADE US INCARNATIONS OF THE BASIC ELEMENTS, AND PROVIDED US WITH OUR WANTS. THEY AID US, AS WE AID THEM!

NOW ONLY EARTH AND AIR REMAIN TO BE REBORN! THEN, WE SHALL FULFILL THE ANCIENT ALCEMISTS' DREAMS, TO BECOME SOVEREIGNS OF THE WORLD!



YOU'RE MAD!

YOU SEEK TO ANNOY ME... BUT NO! I KNOW I AM MAD. THROUGH MADNESS, I SEE THINGS OTHERS DON'T EVEN BELIEVE!

AND IF OUR SCHEME IS MAD, STILL IT WILL SUCCEED-- AND ONLY THAT IS OF IMPORT!



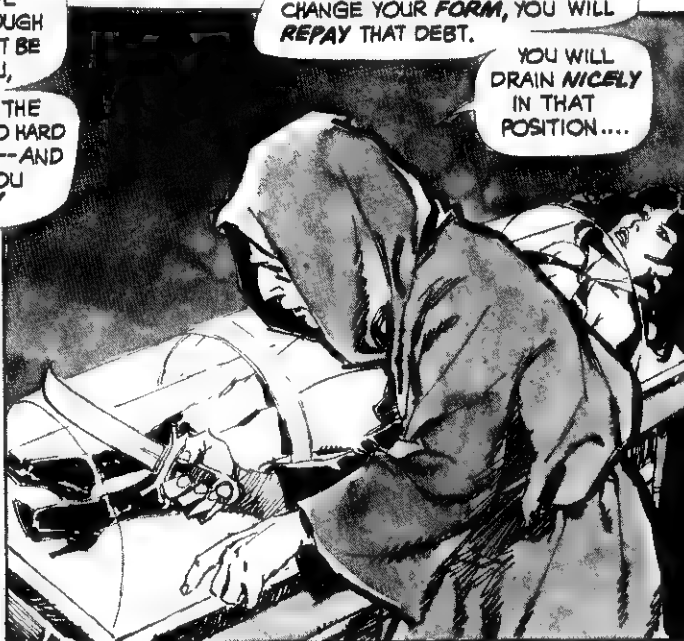
AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE, WE NEED BLOOD\* THOUGH THE REASON MUST BE HIDDEN FROM YOU,

YOU KEPT ME FROM THE NECTAR I WORKED SO HARD FOR IN COLORADO--AND BY RIGHTS, THEN, YOU OWE ME YOURS!

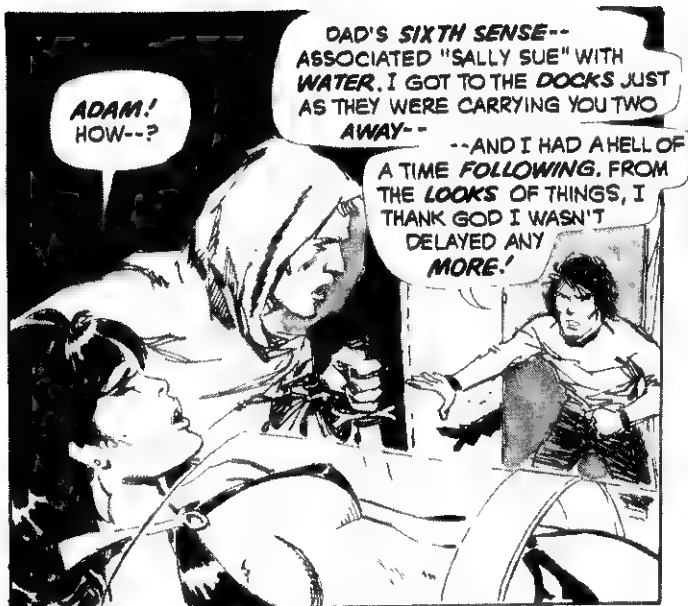


SO NOW, BEFORE YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR FORM, YOU WILL REPAY THAT DEBT.

YOU WILL DRAIN NICELY IN THAT POSITION....







ADAM!  
HOW--?

DAD'S *SIXTH SENSE*--  
ASSOCIATED "SALLY SUE" WITH  
WATER. I GOT TO THE DOCKS JUST  
AS THEY WERE CARRYING YOU TWO  
AWAY--  
--AND I HAD A HELL OF  
A TIME FOLLOWING. FROM  
THE LOOKS OF THINGS, I  
THANK GOD I WASN'T  
DELAYED ANY  
MORE!



AS I THANK *MY* GOD, VAN HELSING!  
MY PURPOSES ARE *BEST* SERVED  
BY BLOOD FROM *THREE* HUMANS!

YOU--  
SLAVE--  
CAPTURE  
HIM!



NOT A CHANCE, JONAS! YOU'RE THE  
MAN WHO HAD MY UNCLE KURT MURDERED,  
AND THE VAN HELSINGS AVENGE THEIR  
OWN!



AS THE RENEGADE PRIEST SLAMS *HEAVILY* INTO THE  
RICKETY, MILDEWED WALL, ADAM *WHIRLS*, SPRINTING  
TOWARD THE GIRL FROM BEYOND THE STARS.



BUT SUDDENLY, *SHOCKINGLY*... FATHER JONAS *PASSES*  
HIM, MOVING AT A SPEED *INCREDIBLE* TO THE EYE--AND  
THE TABLES ARE ONCE AGAIN TURNED!

GOOD LORD!  
NO ONE CAN MOVE  
THAT FAST!



BUT WHEN  
IN DOUBT, *PUNCH*  
--THAT'S MY...

OH NO!



NOW YOU KNOW  
WHAT YOU *DID* TO ME  
WHEN YOU TOUCHED  
ME WITH THAT  
*CRUCIFIX!*

AGONY WITHOUT *END*  
AND DEATH WITHOUT *HOPE* LAY  
WITH ME IN THE SNOW, THE FIRE-  
RAVAGED *SHARDS* OF MY BODY FIT  
ONLY *FOR CARRION*-- IF THEY  
WERE *STARVING!*

STILL, THE DISCIPLES  
WATCHED *OVER* ME--  
AND THEY *REINCARNATED*  
ME AS A LIVING *ENTITY*--

--BUT THEY HAVE  
THEIR *PUNISHMENTS*  
FOR FAILURE, AN THEY  
HAVE THEIR *JOKES!*

MY LEGS  
WERE RUINED,  
*CRUMBLING--*

THEY  
FOUND ME *NEW*  
ONES!





BUT MY **POWER**, IF ANYTHING, HAS **INCREASED!** I COMMAND **FIRE**--

--AND THAT WILL BE YOUR **DOOM!**



NO, ADAM--**RUN!** HE'S TOO **STRONG**--TOO **POWERFUL!**

YOU'RE **RIGHT**, VAMPIRELLA! I DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK AS I DID **BEFORE!**



THE DARKLING DISCIPLES **ALWAYS** TRIUMPH IN THE END, AS THEY HAVE SINCE THE BIRTH OF **TIME**--

--AS THEY WILL TILL ITS **DEATH!**



NOOOO!

THUNK!

AT THE SOUND OF FLESH MEETING FLOOR, THE GIRL FROM DRAKULON CHOKES OFF HER INCIPIENT SCREAM. WHEREAS, MOMENTS **BEFORE**, HER FATE LAY IN ADAM VAN HELSING'S HANDS, SHE KNOWS NOW THAT **HIS** FATE BELONGS TO **HER**--AND IT IS THE SEASONED **HUNTRESS** THAT IS NEEDED HERE, NOT THE HEARTSICK **WOMAN**.



JONAS--IS HE... **DEAD?**

I DON'T KNOW. DOES IT **MATTER?**

BUT AS VAMPIRELLA RACKS HER BRAIN FOR A MANNER OF **ESCAPE**, SOMETHING **ELSE** IS HAPPENING--IN THE BRAIN OF HIM WHO ONCE CALLED HIMSELF **GARY**.

IT IS NOTHING **MIRACULOUS**, NOR EVEN **PRAISEWORTHY**. IT IS ONLY THAT HIS **BASIC NATURE** FLOATS TO THE SURFACE OF HIS ENCHANTED MIND, LIKE AN OILY **BUBBLE**, LIKE A DEAD **FISH**...

THE NATURE THAT IS, SIMPLY, ANIMAL **LUST**.

...THE NATURE THAT GRADES AND **CATEGORIZES** THIS GIRL AS **MEAT**, LIKE HUNDREDS **BEFORE** HER... BUT MEAT TO BE **TOUCHED... POSSESSED...**





...AND WITH THOUGHT COMES *INTELLIGENCE*-- A *FREE* INTELLIGENCE THAT SEES SALLY SUE CARTIER...



...AS SHE *REALLY* IS.

NO *LONGER* THE WOMAN OF MEN'S *DREAMS*... NO *LONGER* EVEN THE *HOMELY TEENAGER* DESPERATE FOR LOVE... NO *LONGER ALIVE*. GARY DOES NOT *UNDERSTAND*-- BUT HE *KNOWS*!

HE KNOWS HE IS FACE TO FACE WITH UNDREAMT *HORROR*, AND THE MIND JUST RESCUED *COLLAPSES* AGAIN IN FINAL *NAUSEA*, RATHER THAN *LIVE* WITH THAT THOUGHT!







**FOOL! TO ATTACK ONE CREATED BY THE DISCIPLES TO BE A GODDESS--**  
**--IN THE PRESENCE OF ONE CREATED TO BE A GOD! YOU SHALL BE THE ONE TO DIE, IN THE ULTIMATE AGONY I ALONE HAVE KNOWN: THE AGONY OF BEING BURNED ALIVE!**



**NOOOO NOOOOOO!!**



**--BUT THERE IS STILL ONE LAST THOUGHT TO BE THOUGHT, BEFORE HIS BRAIN COOLS FOR ETERNITY: AN EPITAPH OF SORTS...**





FREE! THE FLAMES  
WELTED THIS PRISON... AFTER  
ALL THIS TIME, I'M FREE!



YOU CAN'T BE *SERIOUS*! YOU  
CAN'T ATTACK US... *TWO DARKLING*  
DISCIPLES, *EITHER OF WHOM CARRIES*  
*MORE ELEMENTAL POWER IN A*  
*FINGER THAN YOU COULD EVER*  
*HOPE TO COMMAND--!*



YOU *HORRIBLE--!* YOU  
ROBBED ME OF MY SLAVE!  
SHE'S *MINE, JONAS!*

*NO!* I OWE HER TOO  
MUCH *PAIN!* I OWE EVERY  
ONE OF THEM, BUT HER  
MOST OF *HALL!*



*DIE,*  
*VAMPIRELLA!*

*DIE--*  
*WHAT?*

TO THE *ANCIENTS*, THERE WERE FOUR *ELEMENTS*:  
EARTH, AIR, FIRE, AND WATER... EACH *UNIQUE*, EACH  
FANTASTICALLY *POWERFUL--*  
--AND EACH WITH POWER OVER THE *OTHERS!* MIX  
FIRE AND WATER--THE RESULT IS *TUMULT!*



*STEAM!*  
YOU STUPID  
WITCH!



I COULDN'T EVEN HAVE  
WISHED FOR THAT-- BUT I'M  
AWFULLY GLAD IT *HAPPENED*.  
JONAS COULD WELL HAVE BEEN  
*RIGHT ABOUT MY CHANCES.*

NOW, IF I CAN FIND  
ADAM AND PENDRAGON IN  
THIS *MIST*, WE'LL BE ABLE  
TO *RUN* FOR IT-- AND  
PRAY!





JUST IN *TIME!* THIS WHOLE BUILDING WILL BE A *BONFIRE* IN MINUTES--AND PENDRAGON WOULD HAVE BEEN THE *FIRST* TO DIE!



EASY...EASY. I DON'T DARE HURT HIM AT *THIS* STAGE...

STOP RIGHT *THERE*, VAMPIRELLA! YOUR LUCK MAY BE *INCREDIBLE*--

--BUT IT CAN'T LAST *FOREVER!* IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE THIS SHACK *ALIVE*, IT'LL HAVE TO BE BECAUSE I'M *DEAD!*

ALL MY LIFE, I'VE BEEN SECOND RATE-- *THIRD RATE*, EVEN IN *EVERYTHING*. I COULDN'T EVEN *DIE* CLEANLY.



BUT I PLAY THE CARDS I'M *DEALT*-- AND IF FATHER JONAS WANTS ME AS HIS *BLOOD QUEEN*, I'M GONNA DO MY *DAMNDEST* FOR HIM. YOU'VE SCREWED UP *EVERYTHING* I'VE TRIED TODAY--AND NOW YOU'RE GONNA *PAY!*

FLICKERINGLY, THE *PLIGHT* OF THIS PATHETIC CHILD *TOUCHES* THE WOMAN FROM DRAKULON--BUT IT IS THE SEASONED *HUNTRESS* THAT IS NEEDED, AND VAMPIRELLA *HARDENS* HER HEART, TO DO WHAT SHE *MUST!*



MUSCLE AND SINEW THAT HAVE WITHSTOOD THE RIGORS OF *DRAKULON* STRUT AGAINST THE UNNATURAL *POWER* OF THE *BAYOU WITCH*--

--AND THEN *REASON* WINS OUT AGAINST *MANIA!*



LIKE A **MOTH** DRAWN TO DEATH IN A DANCING FLAME, SALLY SUE **CARTIER** HURDLES **HELPLESSLY** INTO THE ROARING HEART OF THE **INFERNO**--

--AND LEAVES A SHOWER OF BILLOWING **SPARKS** AS SHE CRASHES ON THROUGH THE CARBONIZED FLOOR, TO DISAPPEAR **FOREVER** FROM THE SIGHT OF MAN!



COME ON, VAMPIRELLA--  
WE'VE GOT TO GET **OUT** OF  
HERE! THIS PLACE IS COMING  
DOWN AROUND OUR **EARS**!



HELP ME WITH  
PENDRAGON, ADAM!  
HE'S STILL  
**UNCONSCIOUS**!

SUPPLELY, VAMPIRELLA WHIRLS, **SEARCHING** FOR A GLIMPSE  
OF HER **OTHER** FOE THROUGH THE HEAT-TWISTED AIR--

--BUT THERE IS **NOTHING**. FATHER JONAS IS-- **GONE**!



**EPILOGUE**: SEVENTEEN MINUTES LATER, THE TUMBLE-DOWN  
SHANTY THAT PLAYED HOST TO AN EVE OF RAGING **NIGHTMARES**  
LIES DEAD AND SMOKING, ALREADY BEING INTERRED BY THE  
SUCKING **SWAMP**. BAYOU PARISH HAS **NOT** NOTICEABLY  
CHANGED.

--BUT JONAS  
WASN'T **THERE**, WHERE DID  
HE **GO**? THERE WAS ONLY ONE  
EXIT, AND YOU WOULD HAVE  
**SEEN** HIM IF HE'D GONE  
**THAT** WAY.

DO YOU SUPPOSE HE  
FELL THROUGH THE  
**FLOOR**, LIKE THE  
GIRL?

THAT'S  
THE **SIMPLEST**  
EXPLANATION, ADAM...  
BUT WE ACCEPTED THE  
SIMPLEST EXPLANATION  
**LAST** TIME. **THIS** TIME...  
I WISH WE KNEW FOR  
**CERTAIN**.

OH, MY  
HEAD...



**GONE**, PENDRAGON--  
GONE THE WAY OF **MANY**  
BEAUTIFUL DREAMS...

...UP IN  
SMOKE...

WHERE ARE WE?  
WHAT'S **HAPPENED**?  
AND-- WHERE'S **SALLY**  
**SUE**?



**NEXT: INTO THE INFERNO!**



HERE'S A JOLTIN'  
JUNGLE OPU'S TO MAKE  
YOUR BLOOD BOIL AND  
COIL... A LITTLE DERANGED  
DITTY I CALL...

# COBRA QUEEN

JAICE PACKSTON'S FACE WAS BURIED BENEATH A LAYER OF SWEAT AFTER ANOTHER FULL DAY UNDER THE HOT SUN OF INDIA. BUT HE, AND HIS COMPANIONS, THE DISTINGUISHED SIR REGINALD OF LONDON, AND THE SOUTHERN PHYSICIAN, DR. JAMES LONGLEY, MOVED ONWARD... ONWARD...

BLIMEY, JACOB!  
WE'VE BEEN TREKING  
THROUGH THIS INFERNAL  
JUNGLE FOR DAYS, NOW!  
AND STILL NOTHING  
IN SIGHT!

SIR REGINALD'S  
RIGHT, I RECKON.'  
I MEAN, WE BEEN  
JUST MARCHIN' ALONG  
HERE, CHOPPIN' OUR  
WAY THROUGH ALL  
THIS HERE FOLIAGE  
AND EVERTHING, AND  
STILL WE AIN'T COME  
ACROSS WHAT WE  
BEEN LOOKIN' FOR!  
DON'T YOU THINK  
WE OUGHTA BE  
TURNIN' BACK?

NO! I'M NOT  
TAKING ONE STEP  
BACK TOWARD  
CIVILIZATION UNTIL I FIND  
WHAT I SET OUT TO  
FIND! THAT **ANCIENT MAP**  
IS GOING TO LEAD US  
RIGHT TO THE LOST  
**TEMPLE OF THE  
COBRA...**

...AND THE  
LEGENDARY  
**COBRA  
QUEEN!**

BUT, JACOB!  
WE'VE BEEN  
FOLLOWING THAT MAP  
TO THE LETTER! IF  
THERE WERE ANY RUINS OR  
ANYTHING IN THIS AREA,  
WE'D HAVE FOUND THEM  
BY NOW!

THEY'RE AROUND  
HERE... SOMEWHERE!  
**I JUST KNOW IT!** I CAN  
FEEL IT! DIDN'T THE FACT  
THAT THE NATIVES WOULDN'T  
GO WITH US TIP YOU OFF  
THAT WE WERE ON THE  
TRACK OF SOMETHING  
THEY FEARED? WELL,  
I'M GOIN' ON!



YOU TWO CAN TURN BACK IF YOU WANT! OR STAY HERE COUNTING YOUR FINGERS AND TOES!

WAIT, JACOB! WE'RE NOT GOING TO DESERT YOU! NOT AFTER ALL WE THREE HAVE GONE THROUGH TO GET THIS FAR! WAIT!!!



YEAH, COME ON, NOW! DON'T HOLD THIS AGIN' US! I AIN'T ONE TO TURN JACK RABBIT AN' HIGHTAIL IT!

THAT GOES FOR ME AS WELL!

GOOD! I HOPED I COULD--



GOOD LORD! STAY BACK, BOTH OF YOU!



IT'S THE BIGGEST CAT I EVER SAW! A REGULAR MONSTER!

NOW DON'T MOVE! I THINK I CAN GET A COUPLE OF SLUGS RIGHT INTO HIS BRAIN IF WE DON'T EXCITE HIM! QUIET, NOW...

RRRG GRRRRWWWWW



OK, YOU'RE IN MY SIGHTS! NOW TO...

BUT THEN, AS UNEXPECTEDLY AS IT HAD APPEARED...

YE GODS! DID YOU SEE THAT? I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO SHOOT!

GREAT GLORY! IT JUST STOPPED! LIKE IT SMELLED SOMETHIN' MORE THAN YOUR GUN!





I SAY! THAT BLOODY BEAST IS JUST STARING UP INTO THE TREETOP LIKE SOMETHING IS UP THERE!

AN' IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, THAT **SOMETHING** AIN'T GONNA' STAY HIDDEN MUCH LONGER....!

SNIFF!  
SNIFF!  
GRRRR!

I SAY! THAT BLOODY BEAST IS JUST STARING UP INTO THE TREETOP LIKE SOMETHING IS UP THERE!

AN' IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, THAT **SOMETHING** AIN'T GONNA' STAY HIDDEN MUCH LONGER....!

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AN' IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, THAT **SOMETHING** AIN'T GONNA' STAY HIDDEN MUCH LONGER....!

SNIFF!  
SNIFF!  
GRRRR!

**THERE! THERE'S  
OUR ANSWER!**

**THERE! THERE'S  
OUR ANSWER!**

W-WHAT IS THAT... THAT THING!

D-DON'T... ASK... ME !!!

THERE! THERE'S OUR ANSWER!

W-WHAT IS THAT... THAT THING!

D-DON'T... ASK... ME !!!

B-BUT...  
COBRAS DON'T  
GROW THAT  
LARGE!

NOPE! AND  
I AIN'T NEVER  
SEEN ONE FIGHT  
LIKE A CONSTRUCTOR  
BEFORE!

B-BUT...  
COBRAS DON'T  
GROW THAT  
LARGE!

NOPE! AND  
I AIN'T NEVER  
SEEN ONE FIGHT  
LIKE A CONSTRUCTOR  
BEFORE!

IT'S ALL OVER!  
LOOKS AS IF THAT  
TIGER NEVER  
EVEN HAD A  
CHANCE!

AND NOW THAT  
MONSTROSITY IS  
GOING BACK INTO  
THE JUNGLE!

NOW THERE'S  
NO DOUBT.

IT'S ALL OVER! LOOKS AS IF THAT THERE TIGER NEVER EVEN HAD A CHANCE!

AND NOW THAT MONSTROSITY IS GOING BACK INTO THE JUNGLE!

NOW THERE'S NO DOUBT.

IT'S ALL OVER! LOOKS AS IF THAT THERE TIGER NEVER EVEN HAD A CHANCE!

AND NOW THAT MONSTROSITY IS GOING BACK INTO THE JUNGLE!

NOW THERE'S NO DOUBT.

WE'RE ON THE  
RIGHT TRACK! THE  
LEGENDS TALK OF  
A GIGANTIC  
COBRA!

A HUGE SNAKE  
THAT ISN'T REALLY  
A SNAKE AT ALL...  
BUT A... **WOMAN!**

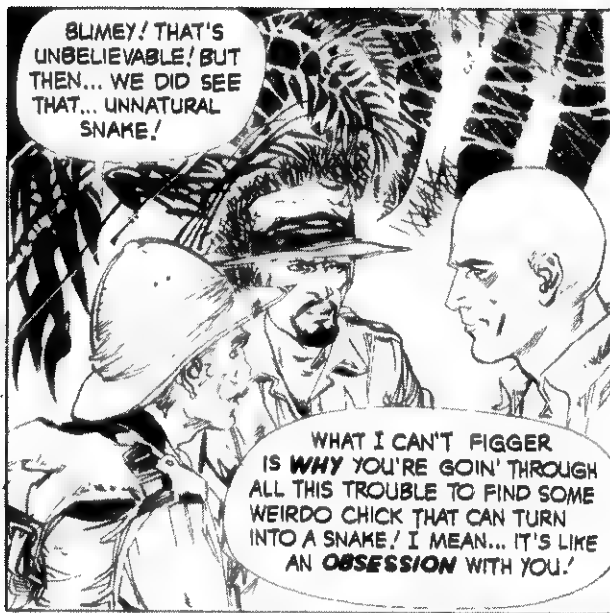
W-WHAT? WHAT'S  
THAT YOU'RE  
TRYING TO SAY?  
YOU MEAN...

AS OLD AS THE TEMPLE  
ITSELF, WHICH SPANS  
CENTURIES! OF  
UNFATHOMABLE BEAUTY!  
BUT EQUALLY EVIL,  
EXISTING FOR ONLY  
ONE PURPOSE...

...TO TRANSFORM  
HERSELF INTO THE  
GIANT SNAKE... MUCH  
IN THE FASHION OF  
THE EUROPEAN **WEREWOLF**...  
AND TO INFLICT HER  
OWN PEOPLE WITH  
HER VENOM...

YOU HEARD ME!  
**A WOMAN!!** THE **COBRA**  
**QUEEN**, RULER OF THE LOST  
TEMPLE OF THE **COBRA!**

... TO POISON  
THEIR BLOOD AND  
THEIR WILL, TURNING  
THEM INTO HELPLESS  
SLAVES... INTO  
MINDLESS, WALKING  
**ZOMBIES!**





NO MORE WORDS ARE SPOKEN...  
EVEN AS THE SUN AGAIN BEATS  
DOWN OVER A QUIET BURIAL...  
AND...

PACKSTON MUST  
BE TAKIN' THIS PURTTY  
HARD! HE AIN'T SAID A  
SINGLE THING ALL  
MORNIN'! WELL, SIR  
REGINALD WAS ONE OF  
THE BEST FELLARS  
AROUND!



THEN... PACKSTON AND DR.  
LONGLEY HALT, THEIR EYES  
BULGING AT THE AWESOME  
DISPLAY OF...

**AMAZONS!**  
LOOK AT THEM...  
MAGNIFICENT AND  
THEIR LOIN-CLOTHS...  
**COBRA SKINS!**

BUT THEIR  
EYES... LIKE YOU  
TOLD US ABOUT...  
**ZOMBIES!**



I KNOW! BUT  
DON'T FIGHT THEM!  
LET THEM TAKE US  
WHERE THEY WANT  
TO! IF THEY  
WANTED TO KILL  
US THEY WOULD  
HAVE ALREADY  
DONE IT!

RECKON YOU'RE  
RIGHT! IFFEN WE  
TRIED TO FIGHT NOW,  
WE'D BE **SPEARED**  
TA DEATH! AND I  
DON'T HANKER FER  
THAT KINDA  
MISBEHAVIN'!

PRESENTLY, AS THE THICKNESS OF  
THE JUNGLE GRADUALLY DIMINISHES...



THERE IT IS, LONGLEY!  
WHAT I'VE HEARD **WHISPERS**  
OF, **DREAMED** OF FINDING...  
ALL MY LIFE! THE **TEMPLE**  
OF THE **COBRA!**

I DON'T LIKE THIS HERE PLACE! SMELL THAT? LIKE THE STINK OF A SNAKE! NOW I KINDA WISH WE'D OF FOUGHT BACK WHEN WE HAD THE CHANCE!

SHUT UP!  
LOOK THERE!

THE COBRA  
QUEEN!!!

I SEE THAT MY LITTLE ATTEMPTS  
TO FRIGHTEN YOU AWAY IN THE  
JUNGLE HAVE FAILED! NO MATTER!  
YOU HAVE COME TO FIND THE COBRA  
QUEEN... AND YOU SHALL NOT BE  
DISAPPOINTED! AS SOON AS  
YOU FEEL MY FANGS...

BOY HOWDY, JAKE!  
IFFEN' YOU GOT SOME  
TRICK FOR HANDLIN'  
HER UP YOUR SLEEVE...  
PULL IT OUT NOW!

BARE YOUR FANGS  
ALL YOU LIKE, MY  
BEAUTIFUL QUEEN!  
THAT WON'T SCARE  
ME... NOT AFTER THE  
TROUBLE I'VE GONE  
THROUGH TO FIND  
YOU... PROVE TO  
MYSELF THAT YOU  
DO EXIST!

NOT EXACTLY  
A TRICK,  
DOCTOR...

MORE LIKE  
PROVING MYSELF!  
ALL MY LIFE I'VE  
BEEN A MISFIT... A  
FREAK... NOW AT LAST  
I'VE FOUND MY PLACE!  
AND WHAT BETTER  
PLACE...

FOR A  
KING COBRA  
THAN BESIDE  
HIS QUEEN!

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...  
A MALE! ONCE MORE THE CULT  
OF THE COBRA CAN THRIVE...  
AND SPREAD!

WHAT DO YOU  
MEAN BY SUCH  
CHATTERING, MORTAL?  
IF YOU THINK TO  
PROLONG YOUR LIFE  
BY IDLE TALK... WATCH!  
AND TREMBLE!

GNIAHHHHHHHHH!

HMMN! WONDER IF  
PACKSTON FOUND OUT  
ABOUT THE QUEEN THROUGH  
A COMPUTER DATING  
SERVICE? THEY CERTAINLY  
SHARE THE SAME INTERESTS...  
IN THIS CASE, DR. LONGLEY!

SCREAMING YOUR HEAD OFF BECAUSE YOU'RE MISSING...

# VAMPIRELLA

## BACK ISSUES

IS YOUR COLLECTION OF THE WORLD'S GRUE-  
VIEST COMICS MAGAZINE INCOMPLETE? STOP  
GNASHING YOUR FANGS OUT AND ORDER  
THOSE MISSING ISSUES NOW!



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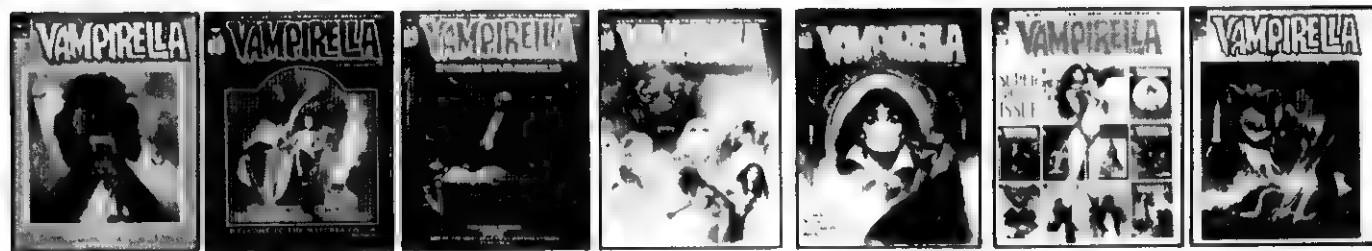
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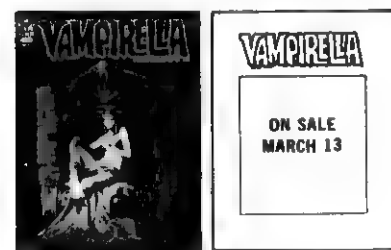
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**DON'T WAIT! MAIL COUPON TODAY!**

**VAMPIRELLA**

VAMPIRELLA BACK ISSUE DEPT.  
P.O. BOX 430, MURRAY HILL STATION  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016

I enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_ for back issues indicated

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
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**PROLOGUE:**

SHE TURNS AWAY FROM THE BREAKFAST TABLE FOR JUST A MOMENT, TO POUR HER MORNING COFFEE...

AND, WHEN SHE TURNS BACK...

OH MY GOD! HOW... HOW DID THAT GET THERE?

ALMOST INSTANTLY, THE SHOCK OF SEEING THE DEAD RAT IS FORGOTTEN, AND, AS THOUGH IN A TRANCE, SHE WALKS TO THE TABLE...

... GENTLY LIFTS THE RAT TO HER MOUTH...

... AND BITES INTO IT, THE RODENT BLOOD DRIBBLING DOWN HER CHIN...

THEN...

NO! DEAR GOD!

WHAT AM I DOING?

I'M CRACKING UP! I'M... I'M...

NOTHING LIKE A CAT TO TAKE  
YOUR MIND OFF THINGS.  
CHERYL WAS ALONE. SHE  
NEEDED A CAT TO OCCUPY  
HER TIME LET'S  
JUST...

# CALL IT COMPANIONSHIP!

NOW YOU STAND  
OVER THE DEAD BODY  
OF YOUR FORMER LOVER...  
THE KNIFE YOU HOLD  
STILL DRIPPING HIS BLOOD...  
AND YOU LAUGH. ONCE YOU  
LOVED THIS MAN, BUT NOW  
YOU LAUGH...

HA HA HA HA

YOU  
ASKED FOR  
IT! YOU TRIED  
TO COME  
BETWEEN  
US!

NOW,  
NO ONE  
WILL EVER  
COME  
BETWEEN  
US!

YOU ARE GLAD THAT HE IS  
DEAD. BUT STILL, SOMETHING  
IN THE BACK OF YOUR MIND  
ASKS, "HOW DID IT EVER  
COME TO THIS?" YOU  
THINK BACK...

... AND YOU REMEMBER AN  
AFTERNOON WHEN YOU  
STOOD LOOKING IN A PET  
SHOP WINDOW...

OH, WOW!  
HE'S  
BEAUTIFUL!  
LONG, BLACK  
HAIR! SO  
SLEEK!  
SHINY!

BUT...  
WHY NOT?

I'VE GOT  
ENOUGH MONEY TO  
BUY HIM! AND HE  
SHOULDN'T BE THAT  
EXPENSIVE TO  
CARE FOR!

A PET IS  
JUST WHAT I NEED!  
A COMPANION  
TO TAKE MY MIND  
OFF MY TROUBLES!

IF ONLY  
I COULD  
AFFORD  
TO--





AND, WHEN WAS IT THAT THE  
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOU AND  
LES BEGAN TO CHANGE? WAS IT  
THAT VERY NIGHT?

PLEASE,  
CHERYL...

NO,  
LES! WE  
MUSTN'T!

I ALREADY  
TOLD YOU!

YOU'RE NOT LIKE  
THE OTHERS! I  
LOVE YOU!



BUT...WE  
LOVE EACH  
OTHER,  
DON'T WE?

IT WAS  
DIFFERENT  
WITH THE  
OTHERS!

YOU'VE  
TOLD ME  
ABOUT ALL THE  
OTHER MEN!  
WHY CAN'T  
WE --

AND THAT'S WHY I  
WANT OUR RELATION SHIP  
TO BE DIFFERENT I  
WANT US TO WAIT!



BUT,  
DARLING, I  
CAN'T WAIT!  
NOT ANY  
LONGER!  
I'M...

OH.

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW  
YOU LIKED CATS!



MEEOW!



A CAT??  
HOW THE HELL DID  
THAT GET IN  
HERE?



I BROUGHT  
IT HERE!  
THAT'S HOW!

I JUST BOUGHT  
IT THIS MORNING!

THOSE EYES! DOES IT  
HAVE TO KEEP LOOKING  
AT ME LIKE THAT? ALMOST  
LIKE IT'S PLANNING TO  
ATTACK ME OR... OR  
SOMETHING!





LATER THAT SAME NIGHT,  
AFTER LES HAD LEFT...

IT'S **NO**  
**GOOD, KITTY!**  
I WAS **WRONG**  
ABOUT LES! HE  
**ISN'T** DIFFERENT  
AT ALL! HE'S  
**JUST LIKE THE**  
**OTHERS!**

HE  
DOESN'T  
CARE ABOUT  
**ME...** JUST  
**MY BODY!**  
**THAT'S ALL**  
HE'S AFTER!

HE CERTAINLY  
PROVED **THAT**  
TONIGHT!

WELL, **TWO**  
CAN PLAY THE  
GAME!

IF HE'S GOING  
TO TRY 'N TAKE  
**ME** FOR EVERYTHING  
HE CAN GET, THEN  
I'M GONNA DO THE  
**SAME** WITH  
HIM!

**HEY! WHAT'S**  
**GOING ON?**  
FEEL **DIZZY...**  
**WEAK...**

**HUNH?**

WAS THAT WHEN YOU FIRST  
BLACKED OUT?

BUT THEN YOU NOTICED YOUR  
FINGERNAILS! THEY WERE  
BROKEN, AND THERE WAS A  
BIT OF FABRIC CAUGHT ON  
ONE OF THE JAGGED EDGES...

WH-- WHAT'S  
**HAPPENING** AROUND  
HERE? THIS DOESN'T  
MAKE ANY **SENSE!**

THE NEXT DAY WAS  
UNEVENTFUL. THEN,  
THAT NIGHT...

**PLEASE,**  
**CHERYL...**

MUST'VE  
**DOZED OFF!**  
IT'S-- **WHA--?**

THE **SOFA!**  
ALL **TORN!**

THAT **CAT**  
MUST HAVE--

OH, YES,  
LES! YES!


**TAKE ME! PLEASE**  
**TAKE ME!**

WEEKS PASSED... AND THEN,  
IN A SMALL BAR NOT FAR  
FROM YOUR APARTMENT...

I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT'S  
**HAPPENED**  
TO CHERYL!

**SHE'S CHANGED!**  
**REALLY CHANGED!**





IT WAS THEN THAT YOU  
SPRANG OUT OF HIDING...

LIKE AN ENRAGED  
ALLEY CAT, YOU STRUCK  
AGAIN... AND AGAIN...  
AND AGAIN...

FFFFFFFFFFFFTTTT!

AND NOW YOU STAND  
OVER THE BODY OF YOUR  
FORMER LOVER... THE  
KNIFE YOU HOLD STILL  
DRIPPING HIS BLOOD...

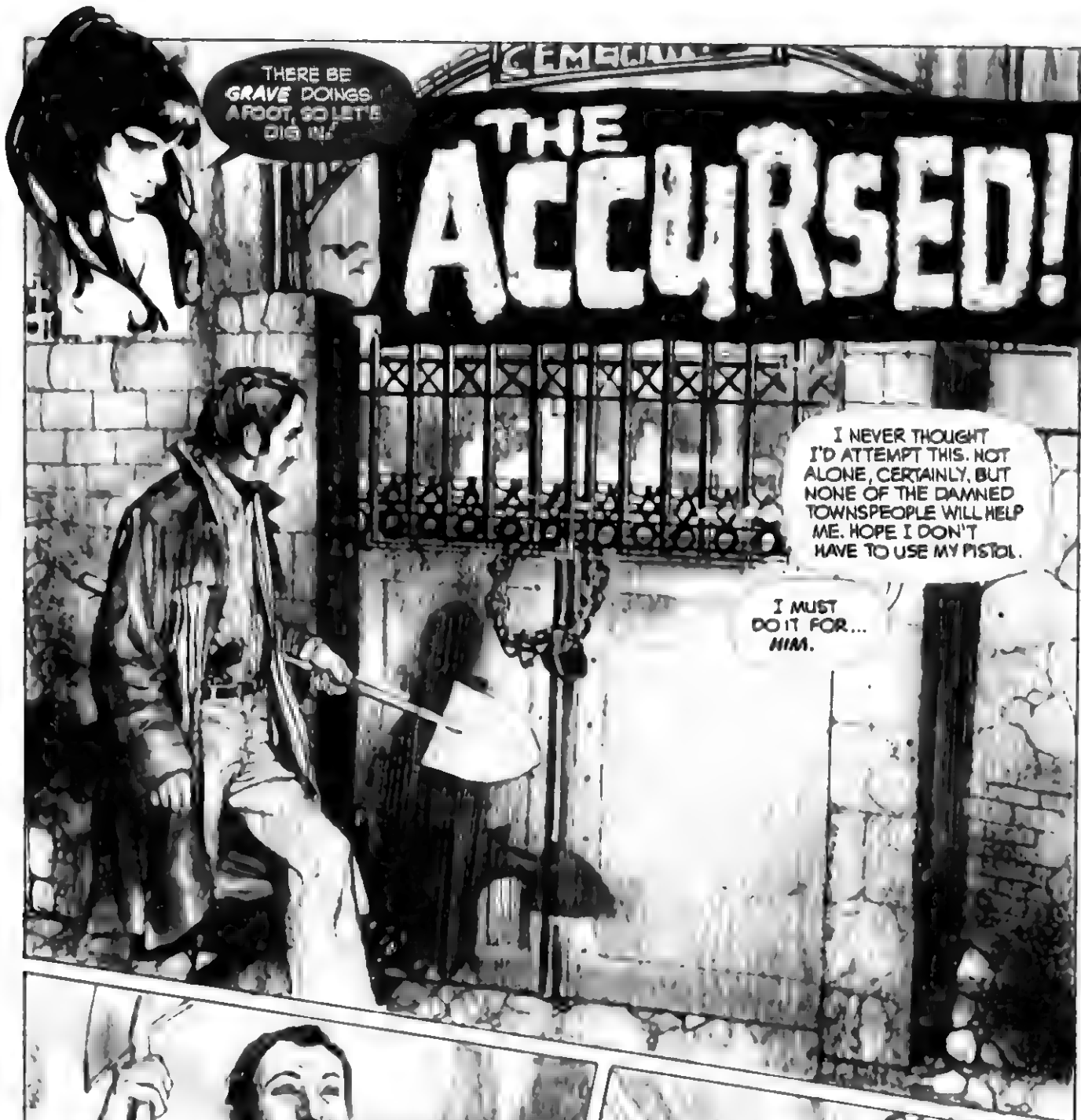
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S  
HAPPENED TO ME, LES!  
I SHOULD FEEL GUILTY  
ABOUT WHAT I'VE DONE TO  
TO YOU! BUT I DON'T!

I HAD TO DO IT! I  
COULDN'T HELP  
MYSELF!

THIS IS OUR  
DOMAIN! YOU HAD NO  
RIGHT BREAKING IN  
HERE AND THREATENING  
US! YOU DESERVED  
TO DIE!

CAT GOT  
YOUR TONGUE?  
POOR LES, CAT  
BUT HIM I  
GUESS.





THERE BE  
GRAVE DOINGS  
ABOUT, SO LET'S  
DIG IN!

# THE ACCURSED!

I NEVER THOUGHT  
I'D ATTEMPT THIS. NOT  
ALONE, CERTAINLY, BUT  
NONE OF THE DAMNED  
TOWNSPEOPLE WILL HELP  
ME. HOPE I DON'T  
HAVE TO USE MY PISTOL.

I MUST  
DO IT FOR...  
HIM.



HAVE TO  
DIG UP GREY  
ARKHAM'S  
GRAVE.

CR-RASSH!!

A MILLION CORPSE-EYES FASTEN UPON HIM. A WIND BLOWS UP, MOCKING HIM WITH MIDNIGHT CHILL. UNNUMBERED TOMBSTONES FACE HIM ACCUSINGLY. THIS IS A PLACE OF DEATH. WHAT RIGHT HAS HE TO BE HERE?

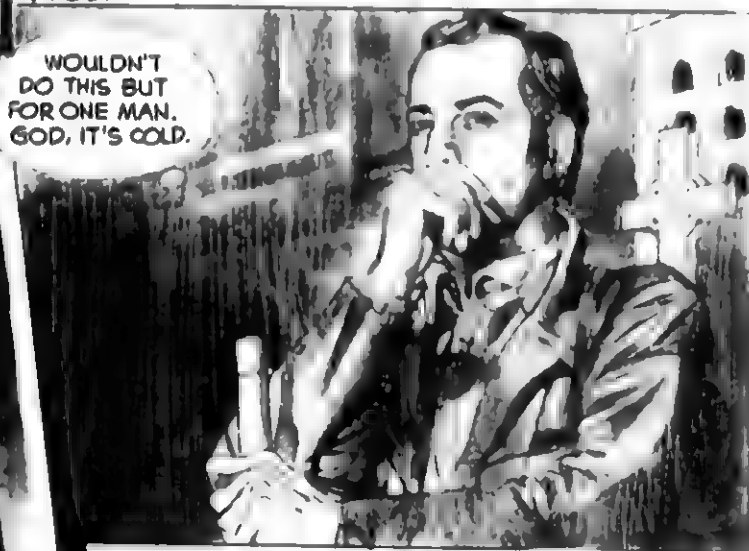


NEVER FELT  
SO ALONE. IT  
BEGINS  
NOW.

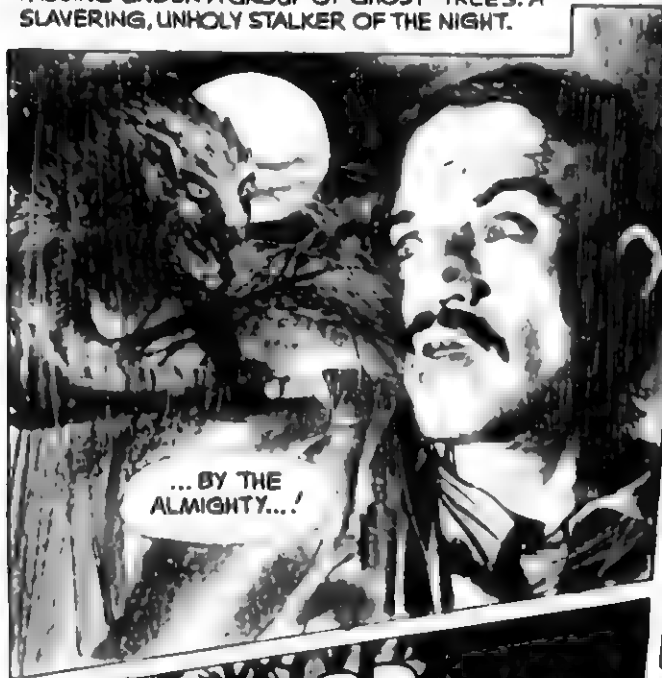
HE SENSES THE HORROR BEFORE SEEING IT,  
PASSING UNDER A GROUP OF GHOST-TREES. A  
SLAVERING, UNHOLY STALKER OF THE NIGHT.

PULLING THE COLLAR OF HIS COAT TIGHTER, TRASK INFILTRATES  
THE UNMOVING SEA OF ANCIENT DEATH, GLANCING CAUTIOUSLY  
ABOUT.

WOULDN'T  
DO THIS BUT  
FOR ONE MAN.  
GOD, IT'S COLD.



HE RECOGNIZES THE DISTORTED FEATURES OF GREY  
ARKHAM...SORCERER! AND THE BEAST READIES TO  
SPRING...



...BY THE  
ALMIGHTY...!



GRR

OWWWW!

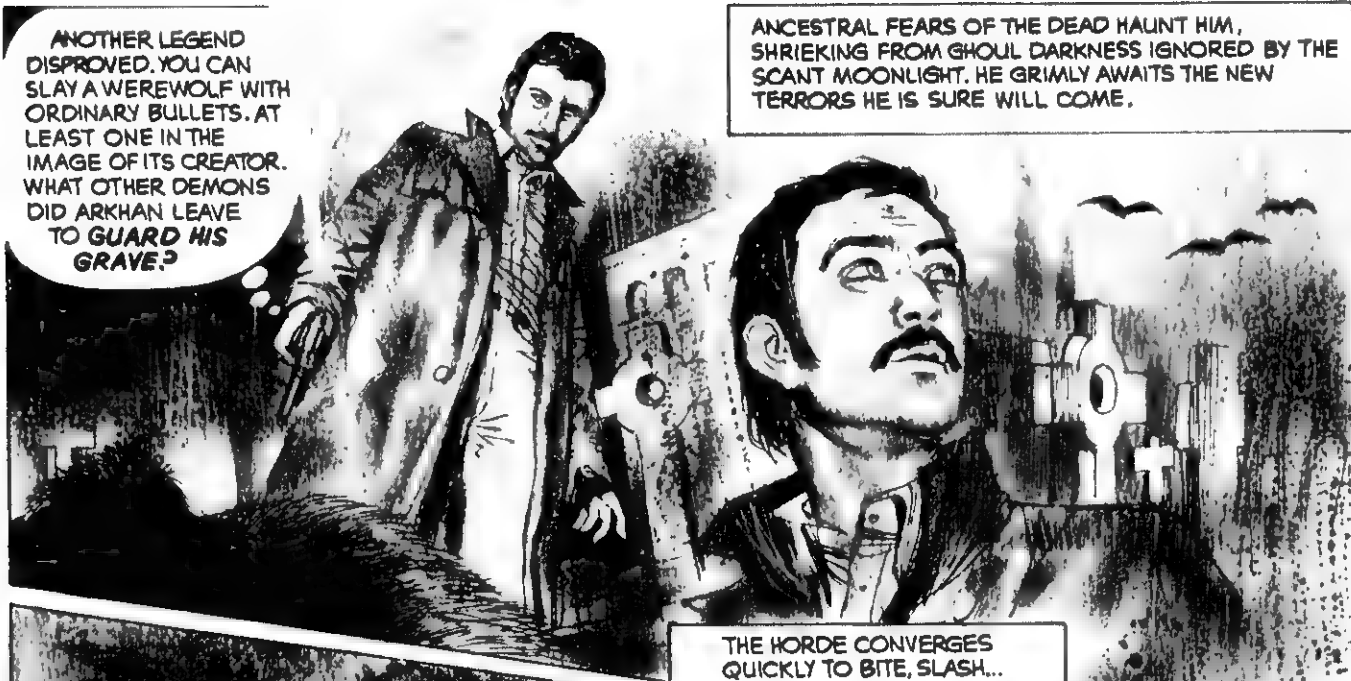
POW!

POW!

POW!

ANOTHER LEGEND  
DISPROVED. YOU CAN  
SLAY A WEREWOLF WITH  
ORDINARY BULLETS. AT  
LEAST ONE IN THE  
IMAGE OF ITS CREATOR.  
WHAT OTHER DEMONS  
DID ARKHAN LEAVE  
TO GUARD HIS  
GRAVE?

ANCESTRAL FEARS OF THE DEAD HAUNT HIM,  
SHRIEKING FROM GHOUL DARKNESS IGNORED BY THE  
SCANT MOONLIGHT. HE GRIMLY AWAITS THE NEW  
TERRORS HE IS SURE WILL COME.



THE HORDE CONVERGES  
QUICKLY TO BITE, SLASH...  
ATTACK!



...WHAT?  
BATS...

HE GOES DOWN, HUDDLES AGAINST A TOMBSTONE.  
FANGS VICIOUSLY BITE AND TEAR AT HIS COAT. CLAWS  
RAKE ACROSS HAIR AND UNPROTECTED SKIN,  
RAINING LACERATIONS AND BLOOD.



HE RIPS THE POCKET OPEN. THE LIGHTER FLARES  
INTO LIFE AND TRASK THRUSTS IT AT THE NEAREST  
VAMPIRE.



...SHIRT POCKET...  
LORD LET ME  
REACH IT...



SKREEEE!



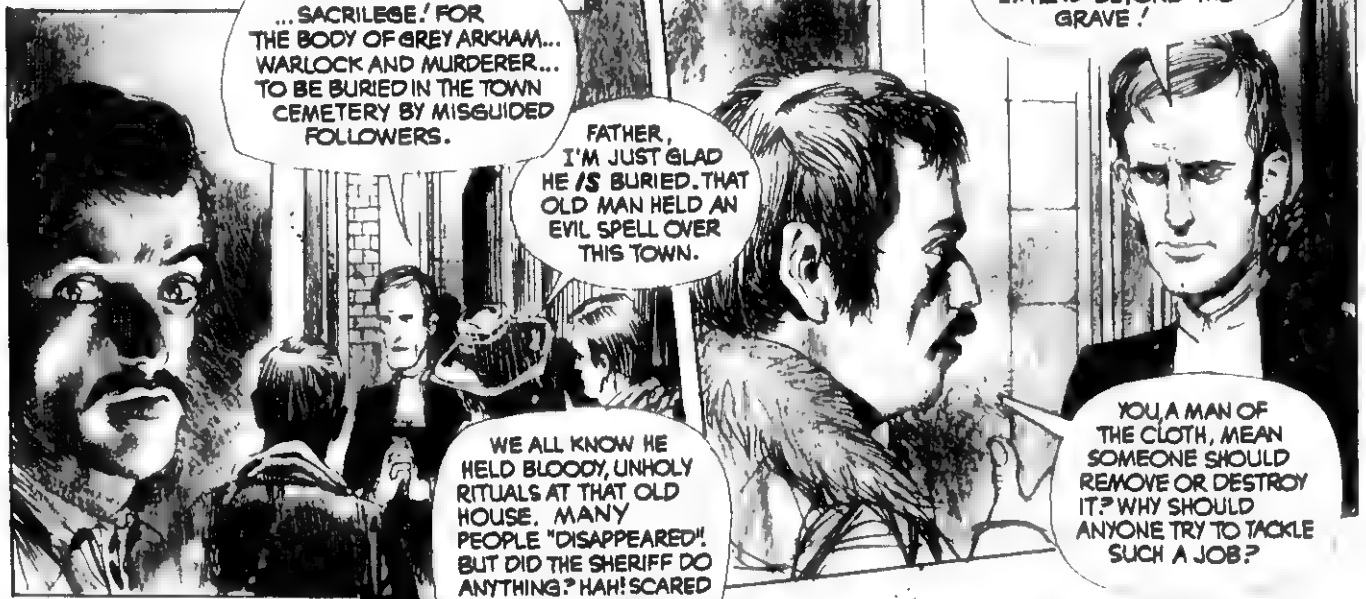
HE WRAPS COAT-TATTERS ROUND A BRANCH AND IGNITES IT. THE DEMONS BURN, AND SCREAM, AND FLY AWAY.



DAMN YOU!  
DAMN YOU! GET  
AWAY FROM  
ME!

THE GHASTLY SCENE BRINGS HIM NEAR MADNESS. TO COUNTER IT, HIS MIND DRIFTS BACK. A DAY AGO...

AS LONG AS ARKHAM'S  
BODY REMAINS IN THE  
CEMETERY **UNDISTURBED**,  
OUR BURIAL PLACE IS  
**ACCURSED!** NONE WHO LAY  
THERE SHALL KNOW REST.  
AND HIS POWER MAY WELL  
EXTEND BEYOND THE  
GRAVE!



... SACRILEGE! FOR  
THE BODY OF GREY ARKHAM...  
WARLOCK AND MURDERER...  
TO BE BURIED IN THE TOWN  
CEMETERY BY MISGUIDED  
FOLLOWERS.

FATHER,  
I'M JUST GLAD  
HE **IS** BURIED. THAT  
OLD MAN HELD AN  
EVIL SPELL OVER  
THIS TOWN.

WE ALL KNOW HE  
HELD BLOODY, UNHOLY  
RITUALS AT THAT OLD  
HOUSE. MANY  
PEOPLE "DISAPPEARED".  
BUT DID THE SHERIFF DO  
ANYTHING? HAH! SCARED  
LIKE ALL THE REST.

YOU, A MAN OF  
THE CLOTH, MEAN  
SOMEONE SHOULD  
REMOVE OR DESTROY  
IT? WHY SHOULD  
ANYONE TRY TO TACKLE  
SUCH A JOB?

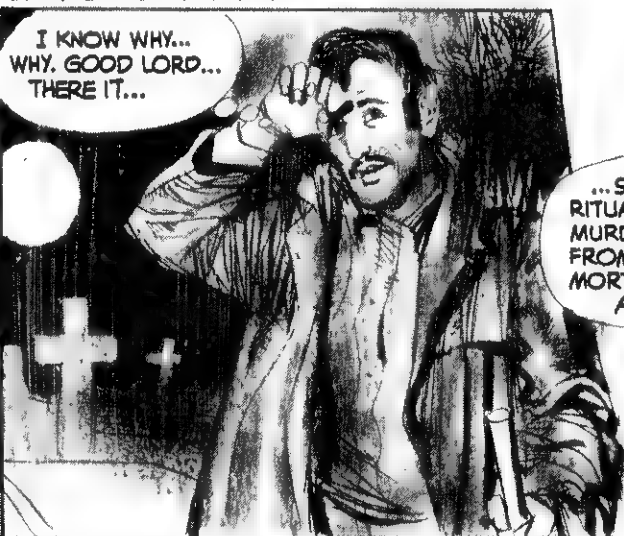
THEY DO NOT NOTICE THE  
WOMAN UNTIL SHE IS AMONG  
THEM, SPEAKING IN A VOICE  
HARSH AS THE BITING AUTUMN  
WIND.



YOU KNOW  
WHY, DON'T  
YOU, JOSEPH  
TRASK?

YOU KNOW  
WHY.

HE STUMBLES IN DEATH-DARKNESS, TRYING TO RECALL THE DIRECTION OF HIS GOAL. STOPPING TO WIPE BLOOD FROM HIS EYES, HE SPIES IT AT LAST.



I KNOW WHY...  
WHY. GOOD LORD...  
THERE IT...

...SORCERER...  
RITUALIST... SACRIFICIAL  
MURDERER... DYING  
FROM SOMETHING AS  
MORTAL AS A HEART  
ATTACK.

GOD GIVE  
ME THE STRENGTH  
TO DIG HIM UP.



PIERCELY, WITHOUT CEASING, HE **DIGS!**  
HOURS FLOOD BY, UNTIL HE STOPS  
TEN FEET DEEP!



WHY BURIED  
SO DEEP, ARKHAM?  
WANT TO BE CLOSER  
TO HELL? GOT TO  
OPEN THE COFFIN  
NOW...



NO. NOT  
WHEN I'M THIS  
CLOSE.

ANOTHER JOINS THE FIRST. LOW THROATED  
SNARLING ACCOMPANIES THEIR LEAP.



NO! NOOOO!!



HE EMPTIES THE REVOLVER, USING THE SHOVEL AS A SHIELD FOR FACE AND THROAT, FOR WHICH THE PACK REPEATEDLY SPRINGS.

THE DIGGING INSTRUMENT BECOMES A SCYTHE, A PENDULUM OF HURLING BLOODY DEATH. SECTIONS OF GRAVE-WALL CRUMBLE UNDER THE FEROCIOUS ONSLAUGHT.



THE FOUL RODENTS ARE *EVERYWHERE*. TRASK PLUNGES THE TOOL DOWNWARDS... *SMASHES* THROUGH THE COFFIN LID OF BLACK LOCUST WOOD.

...AND THE RATS FLEE!



THE CORPSE LEERS UP AT HIM. ONLY A FEW DAYS BURIED, ITS OWN GODLESS EVIL HAS REDUCED IT TO A DECAYED, SICKENING HEAP, OOZING MAGGOTS AND WORMS AND STENCH.





HE IS REVULSED, CLOSE TO VOMITING, BLEEDING HEAVILY, STUNNED FROM SHOCK. YET HE STRUGGLES. PULLS THE VILE CADAVER FROM OUT THE GRAVE.

WON'T BE...  
BEATEN NOW...  
WON'T.

THE POWER OF THE BEYOND. THE DAMNED. IT WORKS AGAIN NOW, MALIGNANTLY, UNSEEN...



ARKHAM UPRIGHTS HIMSELF ON BONY PUTRESCENT LEGS... MOVES TOWARD HIS PAIN-AGONISED VICTIM. INSANE SKELETAL LAUGHTER RISES FROM NOWHERE.

GAAA!



BLOOD FROM HIS CHEST SOAKS HIS SHIRT, RUNS DOWN HIS CLOTHES... HE IS HALF-DEAD. BUT HE RISES AND STRIKES! WEAKENED, ROTTEN BONE AND CARTILAGE PARTS UNDER HIS VIOLENT, DESPERATE BLOWS...

WON'T BE BEATEN...  
FIGHT YOU... TILL  
I DIE!

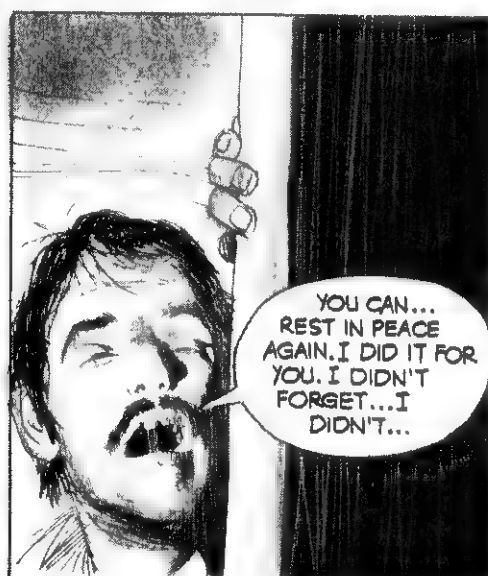


...UNTIL THE CORE OF EVIL, ARKHAM'S  
UNDYING BRAIN, IS MASHED TO PULP!

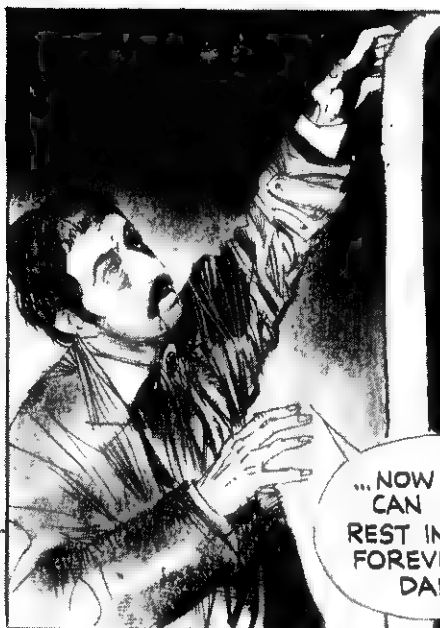


CORPSE IS...  
DESTROYED... CURSE  
... LIFTED! NOW...  
JUST ONE MORE  
GOAL ... TO...  
REACH.

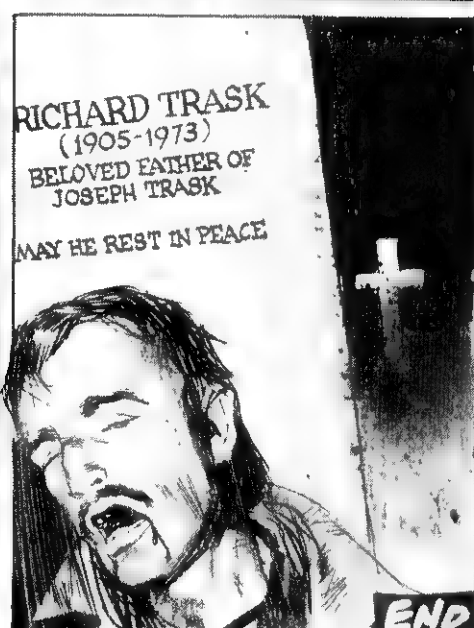
MINUTES ONLY REMAIN TO HIM. DEATH TEARS AND PULLS WITH MERCILESS FINGERS AT HIS WEARY, MUTILATED BODY, BUT  
FIERCE DETERMINATION MAKES HIM CLAW THE GROUND AND CRAWL. CRAWL. UNTIL HIS GOAL IS ATTAINED.



YOU CAN...  
REST IN PEACE  
AGAIN. I DID IT FOR  
YOU. I DIDN'T  
FORGET... I  
DIDN'T...



...NOW YOU  
CAN REST...  
REST IN PEACE  
FOREVER ...  
DAD!



RICHARD TRASK  
(1905-1973)  
BELOVED FATHER OF  
JOSEPH TRASK  
MAY HE REST IN PEACE

END

**PROLOGUE: GERMANY 1623.** IN THE ABSENCE OF CENTRAL AUTHORITY, THE INDEPENDENT THEOCRACIES OF THE **HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE** TURNED TO THE **CAROLINA CODES**, PRESCRIBING **TORTURE** AND **DEATH** FOR THOSE ACCUSED OF WITCHCRAFT. THE BISHOPRIC OF BAMBERG GREW INFAMOUS AS THE CENTER OF RELIGIOUS INQUISITION IN EUROPE UNDER THE **HEXENBISCHOF**, GOTTFRIED THE SECOND.

THE GRIM **PROCESSION** MOVED QUIETLY THROUGH THE TOWN SQUARE TOWARD SILENT **GALLOWES** WAITING INDIFFERENTLY FOR THEIR NEXT **SACRIFICE**.



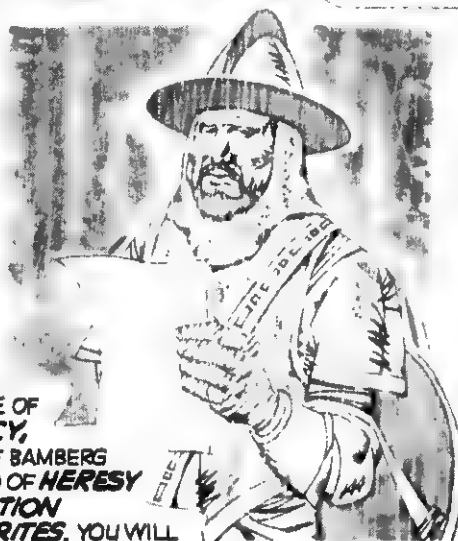
HELGA STARKNEIN SEEMED UNAWARE OF THEIR FATEFUL PROPHECY, AS HER THOUGHTS DRIFTED BACK TO ONE WEEK EARLIER...

FRAU **HELGA** STARK NEIN?



I AM SHE. WHAT DO YOU WANT?

IN THE NAME OF HIS **EXCELLENCY**, **HEXENBISCHOF** OF BAMBERG YOU ARE ACCUSED OF **HERESY** AND **PARTICIPATION** IN THE **BLACK RITES**. YOU WILL COME WITH US!



THE ROPE **BURNED** SLIGHTLY AS IT WAS DRAWN ABOUT HER NECK, BUT **IF** THERE WAS PAIN, HELGA SHOWED NO SIGN, JUST AS SHE SEEMED **OBLIVIOUS** TO THE BLACK-COWLED FIGURE WHO LOOMED TACITLY BEHIND HER.



MOMMY, WHAT ARE THESE MEN DOING TO YOU?



MIRCALLA, MY DARLING, MOMMY HAS TO GO AWAY FOR AWHILE, SO DON'T WORRY. YOU'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF... OF BOTH OF US... WON'T YOU, MY DARLING?



YES,  
MOMMY...



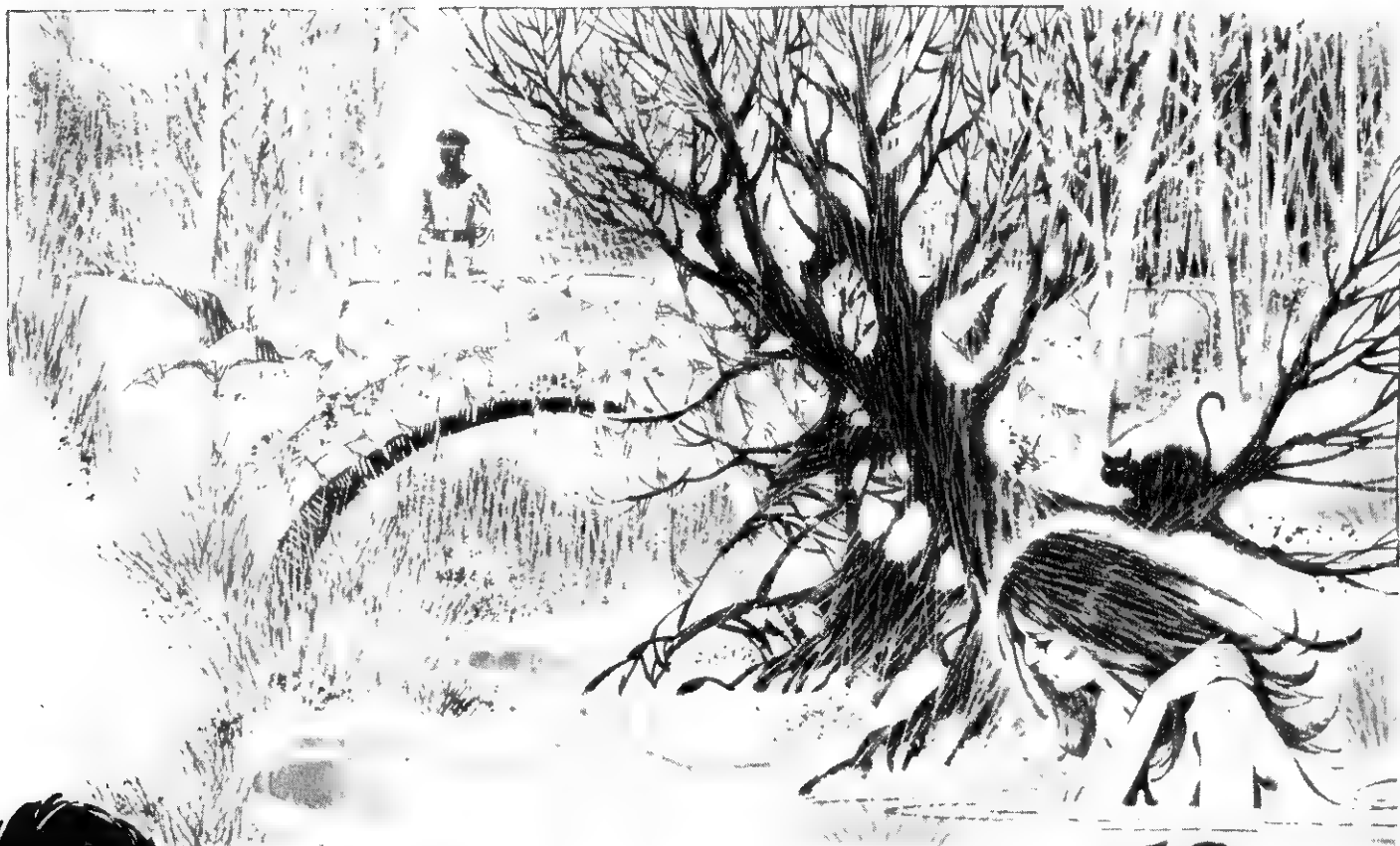
I'LL TAKE  
CARE... OF  
BOTH OF US!

WITH A **SICKENING SNAP**, HELGA'S  
MEMORIES, AND HER LIFE, WERE  
BROUGHT TO THEIR ABRUPT END.



IT RAINED THE DAY THEY  
**HANGED** HELGA STARKNEIN;  
A **COLD**, BITTER RAIN THAT  
DIDN'T SEEM TO BOTHER  
MIRCALLA AS SHE WATCHED.  
THOSE WHO **KNEW** HER  
SAID **SOMETHING HAPPENED**  
**THAT DAY...** SOMETHING  
**STRANGE**, SOMETHING  
**FRIGHTENING**.





THEY SAY "WELL,  
HATH NO FURY LIKE  
A WOMAN SCORNE"  
ESPECIALLY IF THE  
WOMAN IN QUESTION  
HAPPENS TO BE A WITCH.  
MEET WILHELM BRANDT,  
CAPTAIN IN THE GERMAN ARMY,  
CONSUMED WITH PASSION FOR  
THE BEAUTIFUL MIRCALLA,  
BUT FOR BRANDT, PASSION  
IS A PASSING THING,  
SOMETIMES LEAVING  
BITTER EMBERS...

# THE WITCH'S PROMISE

WELL, LITTLE  
**SOLDIER**, WHAT  
ARE YOU DOING OUT  
**HERE** IN THE  
**WOODS** BY  
YOURSELF?

I MIGHT WELL  
ASK **YOU** THE SAME  
QUESTION, MY LOVELY.  
BUT SINCE **YOU** ASKED  
FIRST, I AM MAKING  
MY WAY TO **HEADQUARTERS**  
IN WURZBERG... TO **END**  
MY ENLISTMENT!

IT'S QUITE **RARE**  
THAT **ANYONE** PASSES  
THROUGH THESE WOODS.  
THAT'S WHY **I** CHOOSE TO  
LIVE HERE. IN ANY CASE,  
WURZBERG IS STILL FAR  
OFF, AND YOU WILL NEED  
FOOD AND SHELTER  
FOR THE NIGHT.



MY HOME  
IS IN THE HEART  
OF THE **FOREST**.  
YOU CAN STAY  
WITH ME!

YOU MEAN  
YOU LIVE **ALONE**  
IN THESE WOODS?

NO, WITH **MIDNIGHT**  
MY **CAT** AND DEVOTED  
FRIEND! **WE** HAVE  
BEEN ALONE SINCE  
MY MOTHER WAS  
HANGED AS A  
WITCH, MANY  
YEARS AGO!

I DIDN'T  
**REALIZE** SUCH  
THINGS HAPPENED  
IN **THIS** DAY  
AND AGE.



THERE IS  
**MUCH** YOU DON'T  
REALIZE, CAPTAIN  
BRANDT.



ALL THESE YEARS  
WITHOUT  
**COMPANIONSHIP**..  
DON'T YOU EVER GET  
**LONELY**? HAVEN'T  
YOU EVER **WANTED**  
A MAN TO PLIT HIS  
**ARMS** AROUND YOU...

**FLATTERY** COMES CHEAP, DOESN'T IT, WILHELM  
BRANDT? YOU'VE GIVEN IT FREELY TO **COUNTLESS**  
LOVELY WOMEN... WOMEN YOU HAVE PLAYED WITH  
LIKE HELPLESS PUPPETS...

YES, FLATTERY COMES CHEAP; AND ITS COST  
COMES ONLY FROM THOSE WHO FOOLISHLY  
ACCEPT IT...

THE SUAVE **SMILE**... THE COOL **URBANE MANNER**... THEY  
**NEVER** FAIL, **DO THEY**, WILHELM BRANDT? YOU'VE PLAYED ON  
A WOMAN'S **LONELINESS**, AND YOU'VE WON... BE PROOD OF  
YOUR CHARMS, WILHELM BRANDT... YOU HAVE **VERY LITTLE**  
ELSE YOU CAN BE PROOD OF...





LAST NIGHT  
WAS SO **SWEET**, MY  
LOVE. I'VE BEEN **ALONE**  
SO LONG I'D **FORGOTTEN**  
WHAT IT MEANT TO SHARE  
THINGS. STAY HERE **ALWAYS**  
WITH ME PLEASE?



**HERE**, IN THIS  
**DISMAL WILDERNESS?**  
YOU **MUST** BE **JOKING!**  
THERE'S A LOT MORE LIKE  
YOU IN THE **REAL WORLD...**  
AND I PLAN TO SAMPLE  
MANY MORE, BEFORE  
I'VE SETTLED DOWN...



YOU **CAN'T** LEAVE  
ME NOW. THERE ARE TOO  
MANY THINGS HAPPENING  
**INSIDE** ME... **NEW**  
THINGS, WONDERFUL  
THINGS THAT I HAVE  
HAVE **NEVER** FELT  
BEFORE!



**SOMEDAY** I'LL LEARN  
TO BE MORE **SELECTIVE**  
ABOUT MY WOMEN. THIS  
ONE'S AS MAD AS THEY  
COME. SUCH  
**UNPLEASANTNESS**  
IS **TOTALLY** UNNECESSARY.

GET YOUR HANDS  
**OFF** ME, MIRCALLA.  
WE'VE **HAD** OUR  
**FUN...** AND THAT'S  
OVER AND DONE  
WITH.



YOU'LL BE **MINE**, MY  
LOVE... I **SWEAR** IT!  
**BEWARE**, WILHELM  
BRANDT... **BEWARE**  
**WALPURGIS NIGHT!** ON  
**THAT** NIGHT, WE WILL BE  
**REUNITED** ONCE AGAIN  
**FOR ETERNITY!**



THE WEEKS IDLED BY, AND BRANDT WAS ONCE AGAIN A **CIVILIAN**. **MIRCALLA'S THREATS** WERE WASHED AWAY BY THE **SWEET TASTE OF ALE** AND THE **WARM FLESH** OF A LOCAL STREET WENCH NAMED **NINA**...



**DRINK UP, LOVELY NINA. YOU'LL SEE NO FINER SPIRITS, NOT EVEN ON WALPURGIS NIGHT!**

WHEN I WAS A **CHILD** I WAS **FRIGHTENED** BY THE STORIES OF **WITCHES' SABBATHS** AND THE RITES OF THE **DEAD!**



AND NO MORE **HANDSOME** MAN TO ENJOY THEM WITH. THEY CHILL ME STILL! BUT I WISH YOU WOULDN'T **LAUGH** AT THE STORIES OF **WALPURGIS NIGHT**.

YOU ACTUALLY **BELIEVE** THOSE OLD **WIVES' TALES** ...**WITCHES** AND **VAMPIRES**?



**NONSENSE!** **COME** WITH ME. WE'LL GO TO MY FATHER'S **ESTATE** IN **WILDBAD**. THE DEAR OLD MAN IS **AWAY** ON BUSINESS, WE WILL HAVE THE PLACE FOR **OURSELVES!**

I **NEVER** SAID THAT, BUT ON **WALPURGIS NIGHT** THERE IS **EVIL** IN THE AIR.



**WILDBAD?** THAT MEANS WE'LL HAVE TO CROSS THE **BLACK FOREST?**

YOU HAVE CHOSEN THE PATH OF **REASON**. MY DEAR, **SUPERSTITION** IS LIKE **RELIGION**. IT'S FINE AS LONG AS WE DON'T LET IT INTERFERE WITH OUR **PLEASURES**. **REMEMBER THAT, NINA.**

I'VE HAD **ENOUGH** OF THIS. IF YOU WON'T ACCOMPANY ME, I'LL FIND **SOMEONE** WHO WILL.



THE COACH **TREMLED** VIOLENTLY OVER THE COLD-HARDENED EARTH, THE MONOTONOUS **RUMBLE** DULLING BRANDT'S SENSES LEAVING HIM TOTALLY **UNPREPARED** FOR THE **HISSING HORROR** THAT WAITED ALONG THE SERPENTINE TRAIL.



HOURS PASSED BEFORE BRANDT **STRUGGLED** TO HIS SENSES, THE BLOOD ON HIS TEMPLE HAD SINCE COAGULATED, STAINING THE **CRUSTED TISSUE** A DEEP CRIMSON.



**NINA AND THE DRIVER... BOTH DEAD!**  
AND THE CARRIAGE COMPLETELY **DESTROYED**.  
NOTHING IN SIGHT BUT THIS **DAMNED WILDERNESS...**



BRANDT **WALKED** ON, HIS FACE PALER THAN THE LUCID MOON WHICH THREW ITS GHASTLY **SHADOWS** ACROSS BRANDT'S WEARY FEATURES...





AND STILL HE WALKED, **GRATEFUL** FOR EACH NEW **BREATH** HIS SPENT LUNGS WOULD ADMIT. FOR EVERY PORTION OF HIS FRAME **SCREAMED IN PAIN** AND EXHAUSTION.



**NOTHING...**  
THERE SEEMS  
TO BE **NO**  
WAY OUT...

**STRANGE,**  
THERE'S SOMETHING  
**FAMILIAR**  
ABOUT THIS  
AREA. **I**



RECOGNITION COMES **SLOWLY**, BUT IT COMES NONETHELESS. IN THOSE LAST FATEFUL SECONDS, WILHELM BRANDT, YOU REMEMBER A **PROMISE** ONCE MADE BY A BEAUTIFUL, PERHAPS MAD, YOUNG WOMAN...



... AND YOU SCREAM!



**MIRCALLA...**  
OH, MY GOD...  
**NO!**



LOOKS LIKE MIRCALLA HAD QUITE A **CRUSH** ON CAPTAIN BRANDT AFTER ALL. AFTER SHE HAD GONE SO FAR OUT ON A LIMB FOR HIM, THE LEAST HE COULD HAVE DONE WAS SEND HER AN **ARBOR DAY CARD**.

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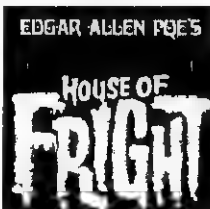


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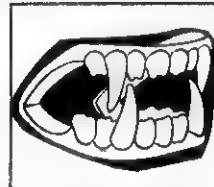
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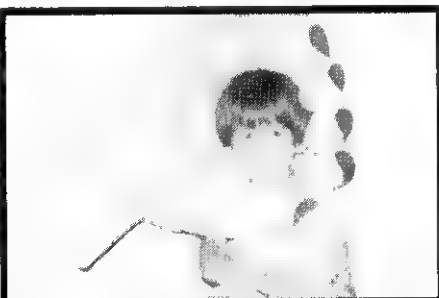
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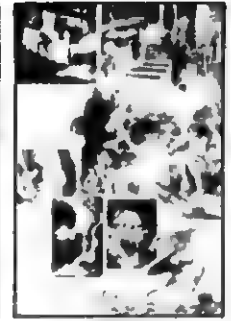
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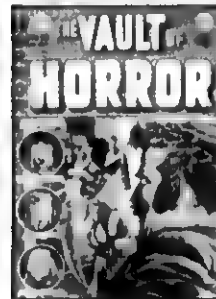
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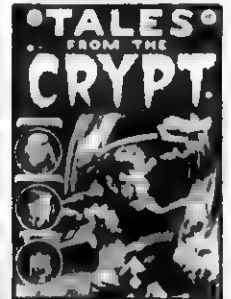
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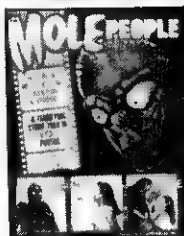
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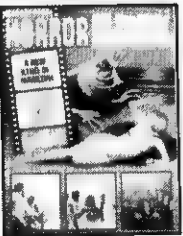
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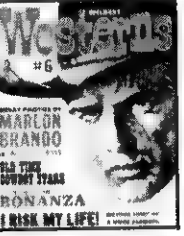
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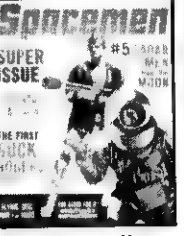
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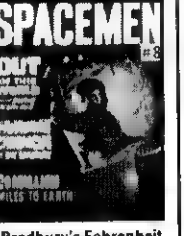
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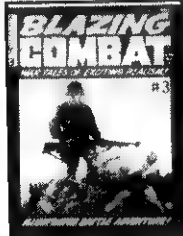
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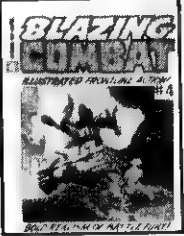
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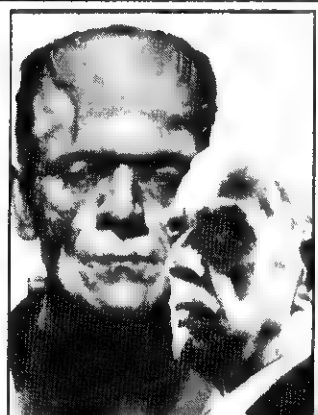
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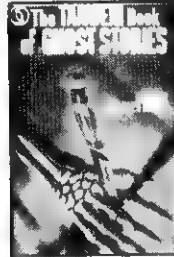
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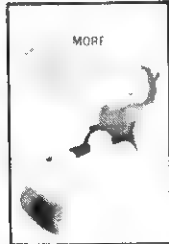
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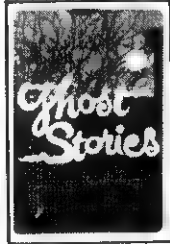
Thirteen tales for the witching hour by thirteen masters including Rudyard Kipling's "The Mark of The Beast!" and more!

## MORE GREAT GHOST STORIES



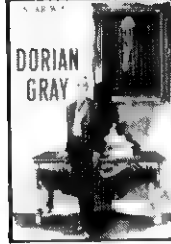
Eight great masterpieces of suspense and horror. "The Haunted Ruins," and "The Ghost at the Sliding Glass Door."

## GHOST STORIES



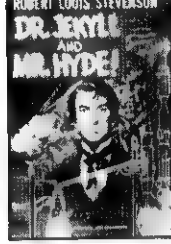
Haunting tales of the ethereal world just beyond our own by masters of nightmare and mystery Macabre, eerie and fantastic!

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The classic horror novel by Oscar Wilde of a man who achieved immortality through a portrait which did the aging instead of he!

## DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE



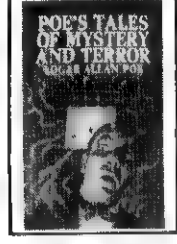
The harrowing story of a man in conflict with himself! Robert Louis Stevenson's awesome novel of evil brought to life! Great!

## WIZARDS & WARLOCKS



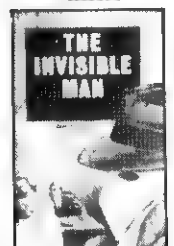
A fantastic collection of science fiction "plus." Filled with horror & gruesome goodies. Stories by Derlath, Hubbard, Block.

## POE'S TALES



The unique world of Edgar Allen Poe peopled with the stuff of nightmares! Eight terrifying tales by the master of macabre!

## INVISIBLE MAN



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## IN THE DAYS OF THE COMET



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## ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU



Rescued from the sea and brought to a small island, Edward Prendrik becomes the guest of evil Dr. Moreau and his beasts.

## FIRST MEN IN THE MOON



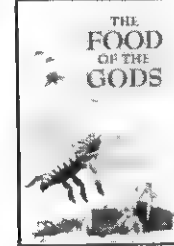
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## TIME MACHINE



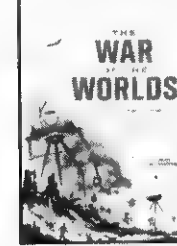
H.G. Wells' incredible vision of the future evolution of mankind when two different races of people exist on the same world.

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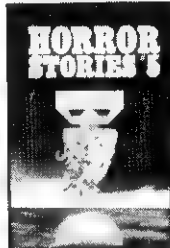
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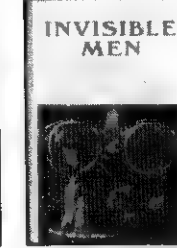
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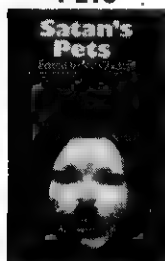


Provocative tales on the theme of invisibility from authors such as Ray Bradbury, H.G. Wells, Charles Beaumont and many more!



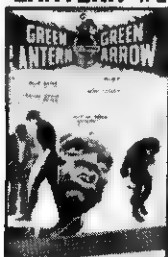
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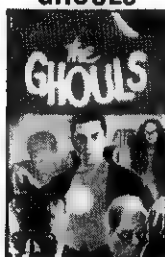
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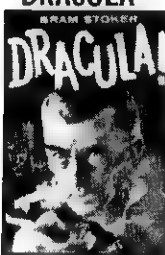
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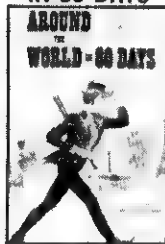
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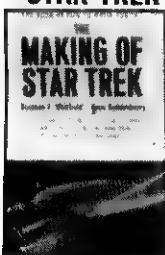
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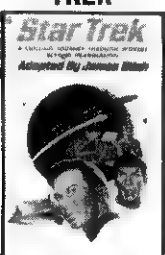
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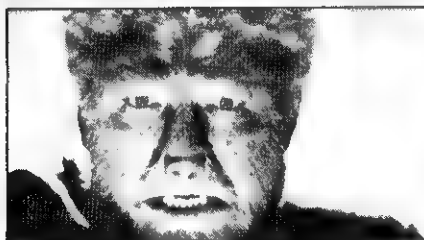
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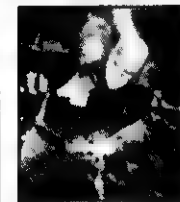
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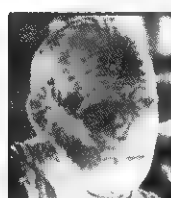
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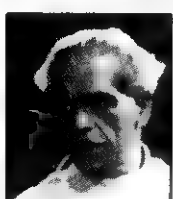
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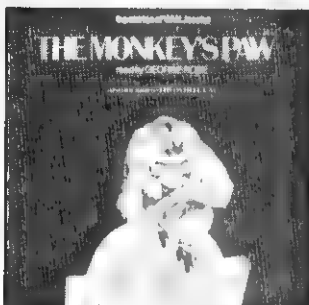
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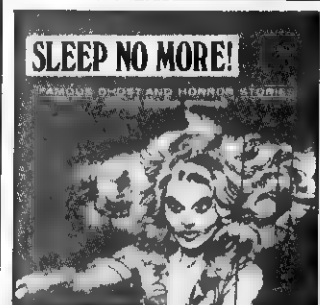
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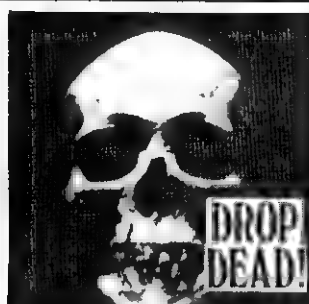
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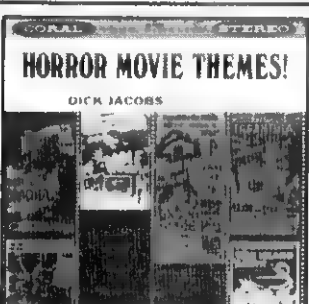
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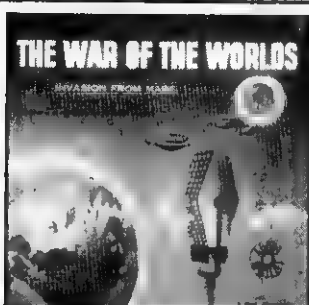
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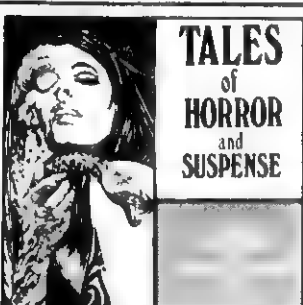
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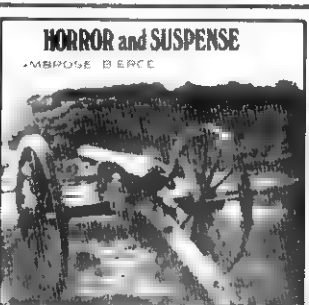
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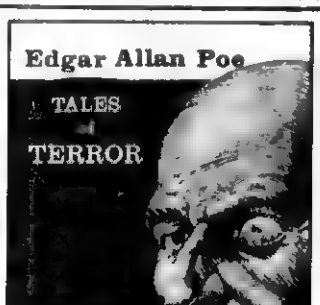
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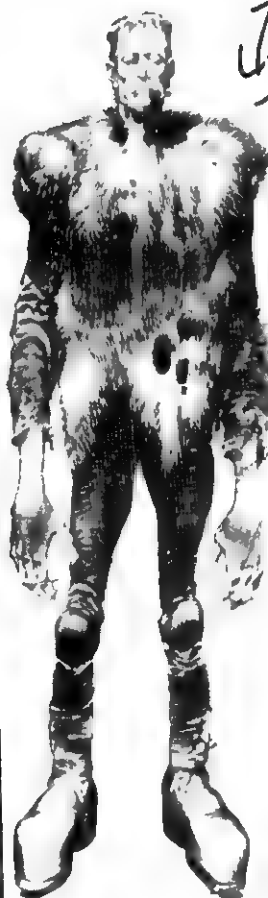
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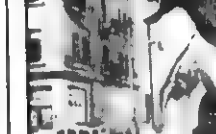
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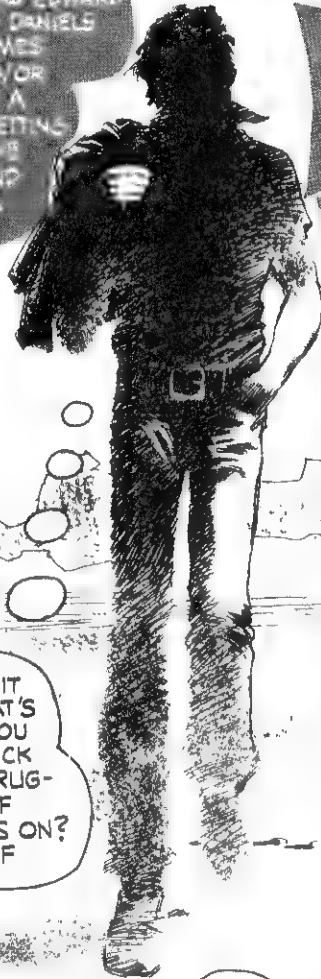
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SAY HELLO TO EDDIE KELCH-ALIAS EDWARD RANDAL DANIEL EDWARDS, DM O DANIELS AND TWO OR THREE OTHER NAMES DEPENDING ON THE TOWN AND/OR CIRCUMSTANCES. EDDIE'S GOT A PROBLEM! SEEMS HE KEEPS GETTING INTO DISAGREEMENTS WITH THE LAW. A FEW BAD CHECKS AND EDDIE'S ON THE RUN AGAIN.

# I WON'T EDDIE EVER LEARN



WELL... YOU **REALLY** DONE IT **THIS** TIME, DIDN'T YOU? THAT'S **FIVE** STATES LOOKIN' FOR YOU NOW. WHY'D YOU HAVE TO PICK **THAT** GUY OUT OF ALL THE DRUG-GISTS IN TOWN TO PASS OFF THOSE TRAVELERS CHEQUES ON? A HAND WRITING EXPERT OF ALL THINGS...

FORGET IT. WHAT'S DONE IS DONE. ALL YOU CAN DO NOW IS HEAD SOUTH--TOWARDS OKLAHOMA. BUT NOT ON \$7 YOU AIN'T...

DRYDEN... NOT YOUR TYPICAL JAYHAWKER NAME. HMM GIVES ME AN IDEA...



YEAH... WHY NOT?



A FARM MEANS FARMERS  
... AND ALL FARMERS NEED  
TRUCKS TO GET AROUND IN.  
SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD TO  
STEAL ONE HERE

MIGHT EVEN BE  
ABLE TO SELL IT LATER,  
THAT IS, CONSIDERING  
THERE'S ANYONE  
AROUND...



OUT  
HERE!

OHO!  
WHAT  
HAVE WE  
HERE?



HI.

WELL HELLO!

I HEARD YOU  
WALKING  
AROUND. I'M  
AFRAID DAD  
ISN'T HOME.



MMM...THAT'S TOO BAD. I-UH-WAS  
TOLD BACK IN TOWN THAT HE  
MIGHT HAVE A JOB OPENING  
OUT HERE.

FUNNY... I DON'T  
RECALL DAD  
MENTIONING  
HE WAS HIRING  
ON AN EXTRA  
HAND.

NAME'S DAVID  
ANDERSON.



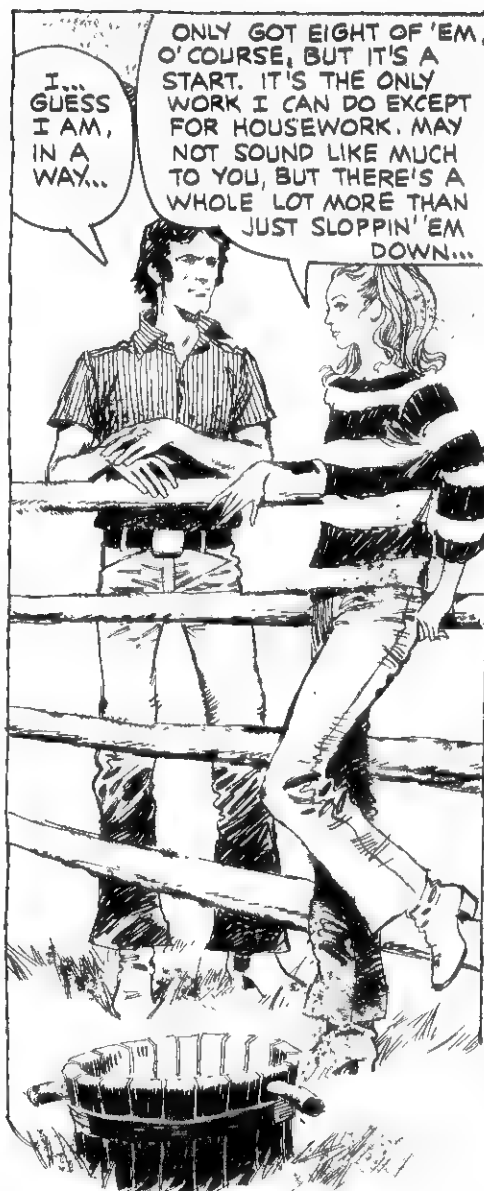
BLIND  
AS A  
BAT...

YES,  
I AM.

BEG PARDON?

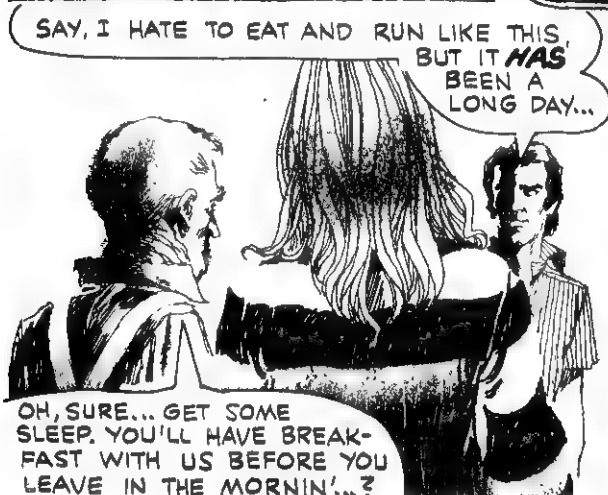


BLIND. YOUR SUDDEN  
SILENCE MEANT YOU WERE  
STARING AT ME - OR WAVING  
YOUR HAND IN FRONT OF  
MY FACE.

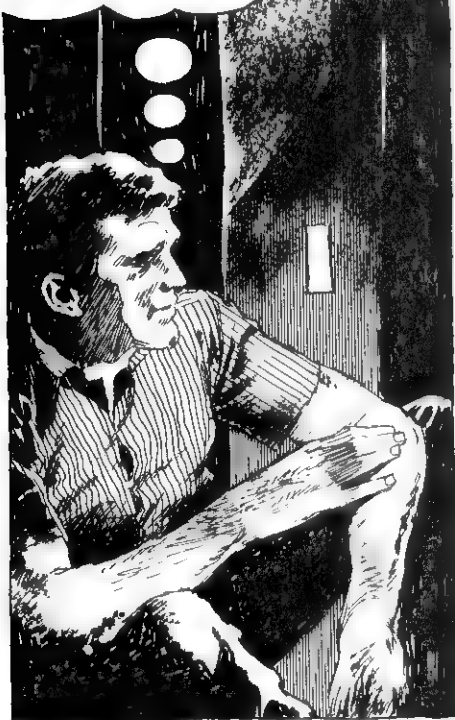








LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GONNA MAKE IT YET, EDDIE, MY BOY. AND HERE YOU WERE SATISFIED WITH JUST PUNCHING UP THE OLD GUY AND SWIPING HIS TRUCK. THIS WAY YOU GET A MEAL, SOME MONEY, **AND** TRANSPORTATION- AND NOBODY'LL KNOW 'TILL MORNIN'.



THERE GOES THE LIGHT- I'LL GIVE 'EM HALF AN HOUR TO GET TO SLEEP..



TIME ENOUGH...



LOCKED...



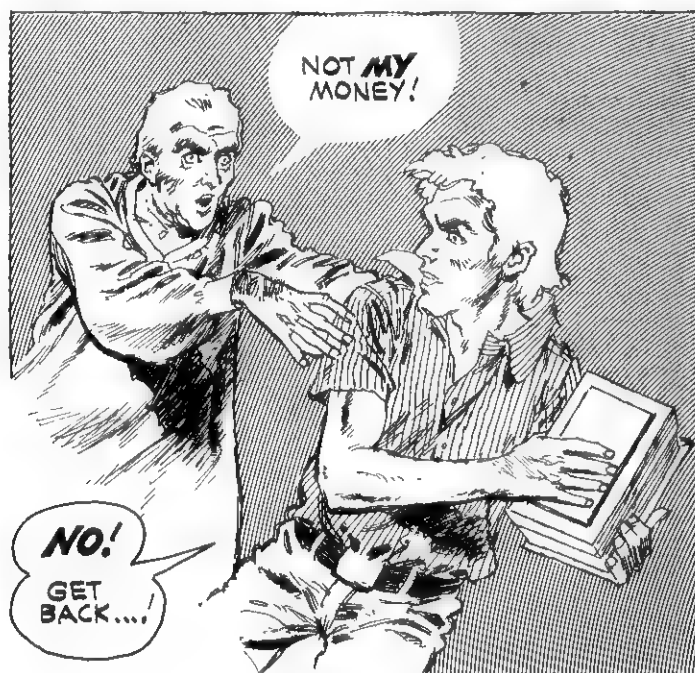
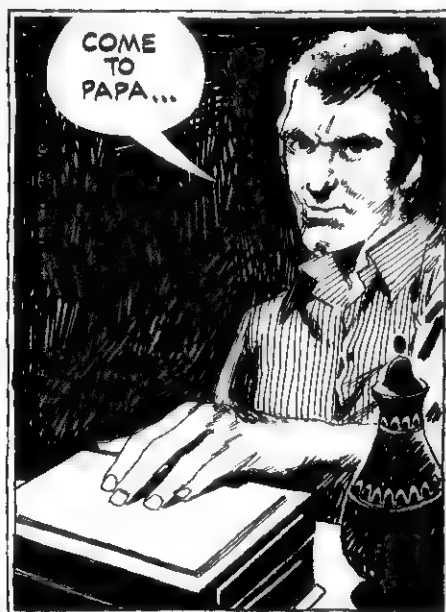
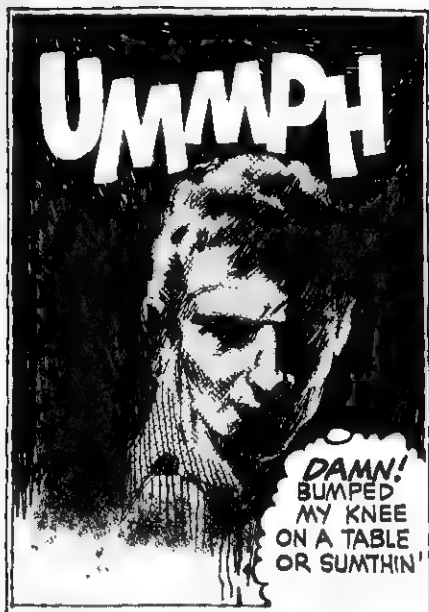
THAT WINDOW GOES RIGHT INTO THE KITCHEN...



QUIET NOW...



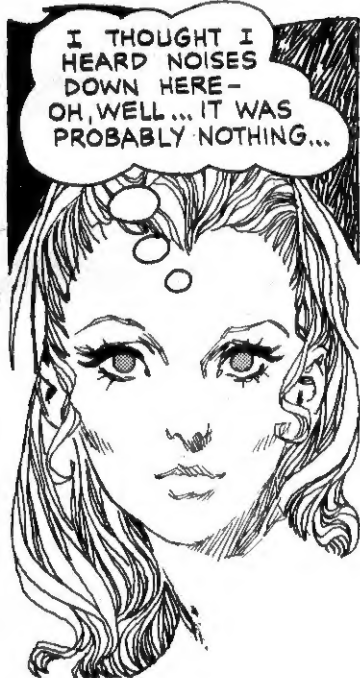








...BUT TRIPS...  
**WHUPP**  
EDDIE SILENTLY SLIPS THROUGH  
THE WINDOW...

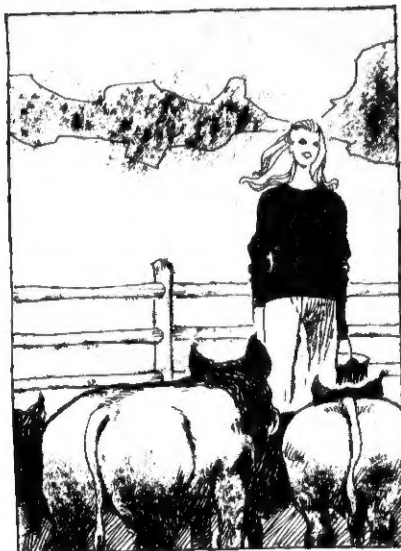


... HITTING HIS HEAD ON THE HARD WOODEN PIG TROUGH...!





MMM... IT'S WARM.  
SUN IS SHINING.  
SHOULD TURN  
OUT TO BE A  
BEAUTIFUL DAY.  
I'LL JUST  
FINISH THIS AND  
WAKE DAD AND  
MR. ANDERSON  
UP FOR BREAK-  
FAST...



YES, YES...  
I'M COMING. NOW  
DON'T PUSH, I'VE  
GOT YOUR FOOD  
RIGHT HERE!



HERE  
YOU GO.  
BREAKFAST  
TIME.



OH, HEAVENS!  
I HOPE  
MR. ANDERSON  
LIKES FLAPJACKS.



NOW NOW...  
DON'T BE PIGGY.  
THERE'S PLENTY  
HERE FOR ALL  
OF YOU...



BETTER SKIP  
THE FLAPJACKS,  
MARY! LOOKS  
LIKE WE'RE  
GONNA HAVE  
HASH!







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# VAMPIRELLA PREVIEW OF NEXT ISSUE!

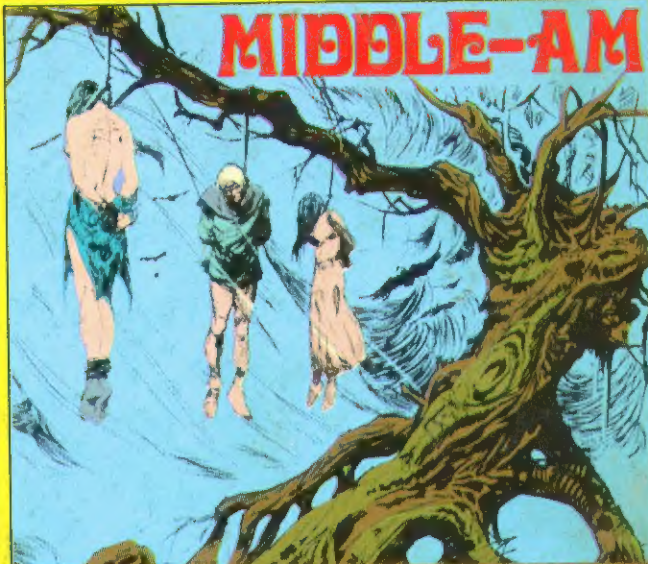
Blazing beings of the darkling desciples lurk in the depths... waiting for their chance to strike at VAMPIRELLA, blood-lusting goddess from the stars!

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PREVIEW NEXT ISSUE **EERIE** NO. 47



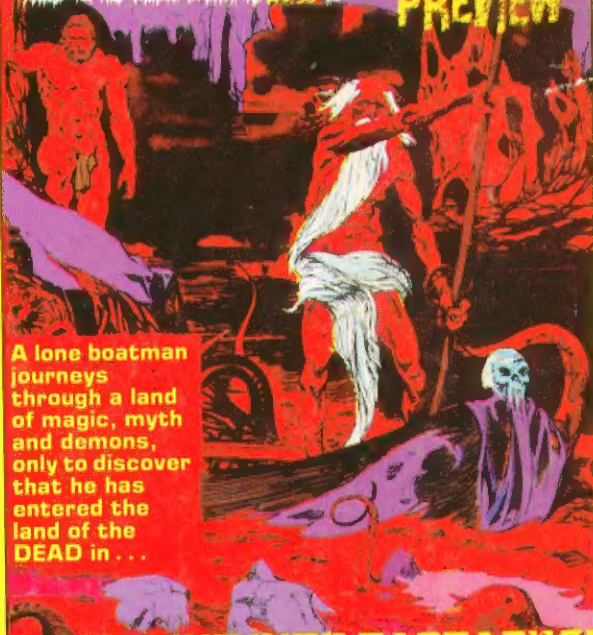
His blade, shimmering in the moonless night, DAX, mighty warrior, waits, bracing himself for the clash with a titanic beast! Only one of the many dangers DAX must face on the distant planet,

**GEMMA 5**

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